THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

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- GUILDFORD COMPETITION RESULT
- RISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF RRISTOL

MAY 26 1950

VOL 197

NO 4249

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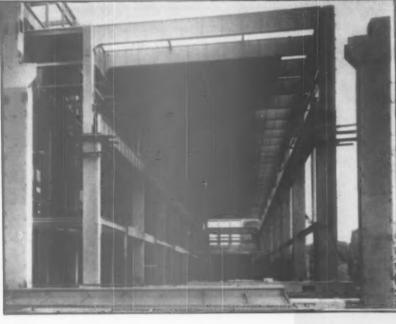
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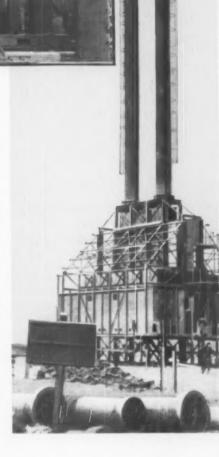
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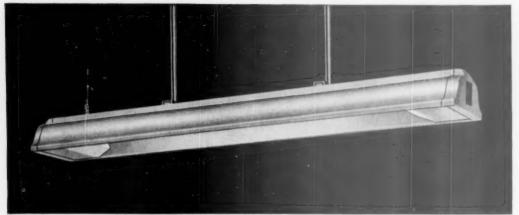
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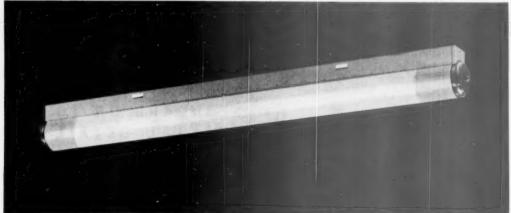


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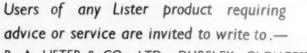
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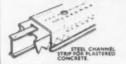
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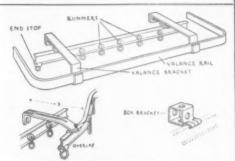




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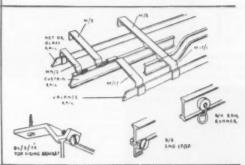


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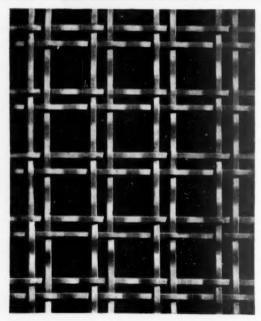
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ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

The "Architect and Building News" incorporates the "Architect," founded in 1869, and the "Building News," founded in 1854. The annual subscription, inland and aversical, is £2 15s. 0d. past paid; U.S.A and Camada \$9.00 Published by ILIFE & SONS LTD., DORSET HOUSE, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON, S.E.I Telephane: WATERLOO 3333 (50 lines). Telegrams: "ARCHITONIA, SEDIST, LONDON." Branch Offices: Coventry 8-10 Corporation Street; Birmingham: King Edward House, New Street; Manchester; 260 Ceanagate, Tel. Blackfraar, 4412 (3 lines), Deanagate 3595 (2 lines); Cidespow: 268 Ranfield Street.

COST OF HOUSE BUILDING

THE Second Report by the Girdwood Committee on the Cost of House-building has appeared. It is interesting to look back on the work and history of this committee. It was appointed in 1947, reported a year later, in the middle of 1948, and now, nearly two years after, produces another Report. We commented on the first report and hoped that its rather inadequate contribution towards solving the "mysterious inconsistencies" of housing costs would be added to in a further report; we also expressed the hope that the Committee would turn some of its attention to the cost of flats as a contribution to easing housing stresses.

What actually has happened now? This second Report expends quite a lot of paper and many words confirming that its previous estimates were more or less correct and can now be confirmed-we should hope never to have seen another report if they had been wrong-but nothing is said about flats (we know the terms of reference said "house-building," but why not extend them?); no positive recommendations are added to the first report and nothing said about "private enterprise housing" and its relation to that built by local authorities. Hints are given that there may be another report, but, we are told, not for a long time. Is the omission of anything very definite, any discussion of the place of "private enterprise," the general lack of basic factors in this report just a matter of political strategy or is it that the committee have not had the facts or were not allowed to have them or were unable to draw conclusions from them if they had them?

We know housing is costing more—the Committee says by 20 per cent since their last report; we know, in fact, many of the things the report sets out for us—they are obvious or have been made obvious elsewhere; even so, we can welcome some new facts which the Committee has been able to assemble. For example, that the cost of materials for an average

house has gone up £86 in two years, while the labour costs are actually less by £9; we note also, not without some concern, that of the increases that have been analysed the highest proportion can be attributed to a composite item—why could it not have been split up further?—called "overheads and profits." As these two have been lumped together we can only assume that both have risen and note that profits increase while labour costs go down. It is all somewhat mystifying.

When the Report is considered more closely it will be seen to stress a number of things by strict-or is it tactful?-silence. Unfortunately, the Report followed and did not precede that of the Productivity Team, so that these two were not (even if they could have been) related. We can wish, however, very heartily that the Girdwood Report was as helpful and positive in its aims as seems the Productivity Report. Such things, however, do not explain why the present Report does not attempt to find reasons for the high costs of building materials, well over twice as much as pre-war or, in this connection, for completely ignoring another and, this time, previous report, that on the Distribution of Materials and Components; which did attempt to give some reasons for the high costs of materials. ls this another omission for reasons of political strategy or is a "quiet life" just considered best in these days of parliamentary deadlock?

The last chapter (ix) of the Report is labelled "Summary of Report and Conclusions"—not a mention of recommendations. Even the "conclusions" are in such terms as "this saving might be in the order of . . ", ". . . schemes could be more generally applied . . ", and to cap it all we find that the Committee does "not think it possible (how very discreet!) to make recommendations which would result in substantial reductions in house-building costs while present standards of size and equipment are maintained." In other words,

lower the standards or call in the real people to handle the problem of reducing costs, the planners, the sociologists, the architects, the town-planners; we would add the building industry and all its anciliaries to the round table and then the Committee would be redundant.

Committees of Inquiry, with limited terms of reference, are not enough to effect any sort of permanent improvement in a field so wide and intricate as the cost of building, and in the case under review, this seems to be known to the Committee. Reports and still more reports are, if they can be no better than the present one, non-contributive. The Productivity Report does attempt to put a case and to make a contribution at the same time and, what is even more important, thinks it worth following up. Documents such as the Uthwatt, the Scott and the Barlow Reports had strong effects on much subsequent policy and there are others less well-known we could name in the same category. But how many official reports say little but what is already known and that without imagination, and, in the end, find themselves forgotten and pigeon-holed. What a waste of time and human effort it is to print a "list of organizations invited to submit evidence . . . to the Committee" and not to say whether the evidence was really forthcoming or, if it was, whether it was any good.

To tell us that "the labour force is now generally adequate for the work in hand" and that "the overloading of the building industry has been corrected" are statements that can only be politely classified as doubtful or lacking in imagination. Especially in view of a footnote (elsewhere in the Report) to the effect that "the apparent rise in productivity suggested by the "Building and Contracting" section of the Interim Index of Industrial Production would seem to be mainly attributable to increases in productivity for work other than new housing."

Why does it seem impossible to find out, in the first place, why houses cost anything up to 21 times pre-war prices when the national building-labour force is only 50,000 hands short and while most other post-war costs average out at about 11 times those of pre-war? And, in the second place, what are the remedies to be applied?

The Report on the Cost of House-Building* really does not answer either question, in fact does not tell us much more than is already generally known. have built well over half a million permanent houses since the war, on a rising market, without knowing the answers and there are another 171,000 houses on the stocks. It is about time that the industry and the professions cut away from preconceived notions and biases (and, perhaps, even Ministries) and got down to something more topical and fundamental for housing and its costs; if only because they might conceivably want to get on with wider issues and with bigger things some time in the future.



Clifton Suspension Bridge

R. I. B. A. CONFERENCE BRISTOL. IUNE

PROGRAMME

JUNE 7. 8.30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Informal Reception at the Conference Headquarters, Red Lodge, Park Row. Members will be guests of the Bristol Society of Architects.

JUNE 8. 10.15 a.m.-12.15 p.m.

The Inaugural Meeting at Bristol University. Reception and Address of Welcome by the Lord Mayor of Bristol. Address by Mr. Michael Waterhouse, P.R.I.B.A. Paper by the Earl of Rosse, Chairman of the Georgian Protection and Preservation of Historic Buildings."

3.30 p.m.—5.30 p.m. Garden Party and Conference Photograph at Blaise Castle.

9 p.m.-1 a.m. Civic Reception and Dance at the Pump Room, Bath.

JUNE 9. 10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

At Bristol University. Paper by the Hon. Lionel Brett. The New City Centres of Europe.'

AFTERNOON JUNE 9. HALF DAY COACH AND WALKING TOURS.

1. Tour of Bristol. 2. Tour of Bath. 3. Visit to the Brabazon Hangar. 4. Visit to Prior Park.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9. WHOLE DAY COACH TOURS.

1. Cotswolds-visiting Chipping Sodbury, Tetbury, Cirencester, Bibury, Coln Valley, Northleach, Bird-lip, Painswick, Frenchay, and back to Bristol.
Wells—visiting Dundry, Chewstoke, Winford, But-

combe. Blagdon. Burrington Combe, Castle of Comfort, Chewion Mendip, Priddy, Cheddar Caves and Gorge (stopping here for lunch), Wedmore Wells, over the Mendips to Chewstoke, Dundry and back to Bristol.

3. Lacock-visiting Keynsham, Saltford, Bath, Kingsdown. Hazelbury House, Bradford-on-Avon (stopping here for lunch), Great Chalfield Manor, Lacock, Corsham, Bath and Bristol,

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 10. HALF DAY COACH TOURS. E. S. Robinson's pre-stressed building in Bristol. 2. Clifton. 3. Burrington Combe and Cheddar. SATURDAY, JUNE 10.

VIsit to Theatre Royal, Bath. The Old Vic Company will be playing "Tartuffe,"

^{*} H.M.S.O., price 1s. 3d.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

TELEVISIONARY

PHOTOGRAPHS of a model and preliminary block plans of Mr. Graham Dawbarn's scheme for the B.B.C.'s television buildings at Shepherds Bush are shown on another page. As I have insufficient information to offer any sensible comments, except to say that it is an imaginative project in the shape of a giant question mark, I can only thank my stars that I shall not have to do the working drawings or set up the perspectives. It also seems to me that Mr. Dawbarn's office might prove a useful place for vendors of drawing machines and French curves.

NOT CRICKET

HARD on the heels of an invitation from the N.F.B.T.E. to attend a meeting at the Kingsway Hall on the report of the Building Productivity Team's American tour, came a notice announcing the Federation's team for its forthcoming cricket match with Mr. Ian Murray Leslie's "Vitruvians." This smacks of This smacks of fiddling on the eve of Waterloo and other famous historical occasions. But it shows at least that our national sense of proportion is undisturbed by the abdominal reverberations of the industry. The therapeutic value of a long day in the field is well known and a couple of hours at the popping-crease has been known to add as much as an inch and a half to a man's stature. This match, then, is all-important to the rehabilitation of the building industry, and it is of exceptional interest to learn that the builders' team will be captained by Mr. R. R. Costain, President of the L.M.B.A. and uncrowned king of Harlow. To assist him dispose of the Building Industry Press he will have no less than five Minor County players, a Kent amateur, and Mr. W. R. Hammond, whose position as a director of a tyre firm seems a doubtful qualification for a place in the side. occasion will, however, give him an opportunity of retreading the path of glory. I suspect that the announcement of these names was made by the Federation's department of psychological warfare, but it is, all the same, unlikely to deter a team which may be expected to be expert in the Golden Cut, pulls from the block and drives through the covers, however many points and galleys the other types have. I am told that it is untrue that the Vitruvians have insisted on playing with a set of stumps with Corinthian capitals.

FLUSH PIPES AND CHERUBS

SEVEN moulded lead statues of cherubs were recently stolen from the grounds of a house at East Grinstead, it is thought, for their metal content, which was valued at about £70. The value of the statues was £1,000. This inability of thieves to appreciate the difference in value between a pound of flush pipe and a pound of statue is deplorable, but will perhaps vanish as State education in art improves.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

THE appeal for funds to repair the spire is likely to receive sympathetic attention from architects. Sir Christopher Wren, who added wrought iron ties and rods to the tower (not the ones that are giving all the trouble, I hope) wrote as follows: "The Pillars and ye Spaces between them are well suited to ye highth of the Arches, ye Mouldings are decently mixed with large planes without an affectation of filling every corner with ornaments, which (unlesse they are admirably good) glut



" I hear he won a competition recently "

ye eye, as much as in Musick, too much Division cloyes ye eare, the Windowes are not made too great, nor yet ye light obstructed with many mullions and transomes of Tracery-worke which was ye ill fashion of ye next (following) age. Our artist knew better that nothing could adde beauty to light, he trusted in a stately and rich Plainenesse." Criticism of a "Stately and rich Plainenesse" which architectural philosophers of to-day might well copy.

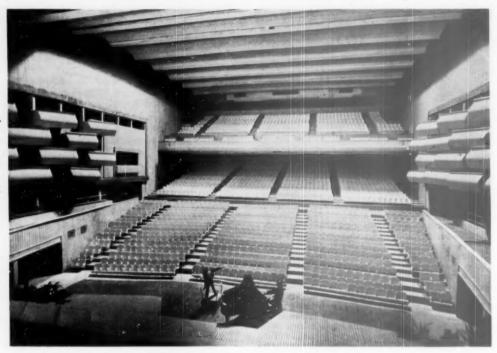
My quotation comes from a booklet called *The Romance of Salisbury Cathedral*, published by the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury, price 1s. 6d.

ARCHITECTURAL POLITICS

THE U.I.A. Warsaw Conference is off, that is to say as far as those on this side of the Iron Curtain are concerned. The Polish Section of U.I.A. is toeing the line and will only consent to take part on the condition that Yugoslavia does not. Further, the Executive of U.I.A. is expected to sign the Peace Manifesto of the World Congress of the Partisans of Peace proclaimed at Stockholm. Thirdly, the Polish group considers the request for what amounted to a safe conduct for delegates to the conference to be provocative and actuated by propaganda hostile to the Socialist countries and the People's Democracies. The demand must be officially withdrawn by the General Council of U.I.A. . . . Oh. Pooh!

THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

THE L.C.C. has just issued a neat booklet on the Concert Hall which contains pictures, plans and a photograph or two of the model. The hall is fully described and preliminary seating plans are also given. The L.C.C. are now ready to receive inquiries for concert and other bookings for the hall. This does not mean that you can reserve your seat for the opening, but if you are thinking of giving a piano recital now is your chance.



Interior of the model of the Royal Festival Hall

THE ECHOES OF THE ALBERT HALL

THE booklet on the Festival Hall describes how the greatest care has been taken with the acoustic design of the auditorium and says that the final tuning of the hall will be carried out when it is completed. has prompted a little searching in the A. & B.N. files and uncovered the following remarks from an account of the opening of the Albert Hall written by Mr. W. Mattieu Williams and published in Vol. V, January-June, 1871. "An invisible military band was playing for some time before the arrival of the Queen. music was freely heard without any perceptible echo. but the outlines of the sound (if I may use such an expression) were slightly shaded; there was just that want of crispness and definition of individual sound which will be advantageous to an ill-timed band, but somewhat damaging to the display of one that was playing staccato passages with perfect unity.

"When the Prince of Wales read his address I heard every word repeated with perfect distinctness; the echo was pure and single—the two voices appeared like those of prompter and faithfully-repeating speaker. The echo was remarkably well defined, and nearly as loud as the voice of the Prince.

"When the Oueen replied, her words were also repeated, but far less distinctly. This was a respectful whispering echo. When Santley sang a solo there was no distinct echo, only a slight confusion of sound; but every note of Madame Sherrington's solo was most vexatiously mocked, but not so distinctly as the words of the Prince of Wales. A slight murmur accompanied the band, but it required a strain of attention to detect any definite echo." I wonder what the Queen wrote in

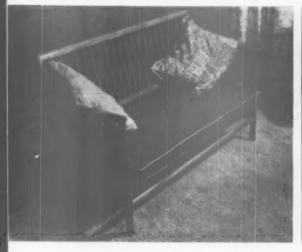
her diary that night. You will note that in those days even echoes were respectful.

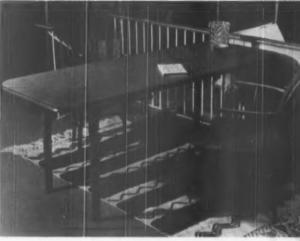
THE B.I.F.

DID my duty by all three branches of the B.I.F. Most of the interesting things have already been com-mented on in the A. & B.N., but I would like to add a little to them. First I thought that the Tube Investments Stand at Birmingham by Hugh Casson and Patience Clifford was quite outstanding, a fact which last week's photographs unfortunately did not bring out. At Earl's Court the Guinness stand by Cockade (Mrs. Casson this time) was very good indeed, although no photographers seem to have found it. The export stout was also very good. I liked, too, the Scottish Furniture Manufacturers' stand by Basil Spence. of the furniture had been specially designed for the show by the designers I mentioned some weeks ago. Tucked away in a corner I found one of the most effec-A simple interior with a quarry tiled tive stands. floor, a lighted doorway at the back, light oak cottage furniture, a table laid with a delicious cold supper, chicken (real), home-made bread, farmhouse butter and green salad with a bunch of red radishes all arranged on glazed earthenware. Spotlighted on the middle of the table a curiously shaped and textured bottle containing mead. A small card placed against the bottle extolled the advantages of this unusual drink

There were several good but unremarkable stands at Olympia, but after raised platforms, hardwood frames, white railings and cactuses, what next?

ABNER







Top left: a settee designed by Dennis Lennon, M.C., A.R.I.B.A., for the Scottish Furniture Manufacturers' Stand at the B.I.F.—carried out in mahagany with a Dunlopillo seat covered in Scottish Tweed, manufactured for the Scottish Furniture Manufacturers Ltd., by A. H. McIntosh.

Top right: a corner of the Library in the same exhibit. The table is carried out in English Walnut and the top is covered in golden brown hide. The chairs are also made in English Walnut and the seats are covered in hide to match the table. Both are designed by R. D. Russell, R.D.I., F.S.I.A. and R. Y. Goodden, R.D.I., A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.A., and manufactured by Macneill Brothers for the Scottish Furniture Manufacturers Ltd. The rug is hand made in Skye by the Highland Home Industries.

Left: part of the bed head storage unit in the double bedroom. The furniture is carried out in mahogany and is designed by R. D. Russell, R.D.I., F.S.I.A., and R. Y. Goodden, R.D.I., A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.A., and manufactured by H. Morris & Co. for the Scottish Furniture Manufacturers Ltd.

NEWS

0 F

THE

WEEK

The Minister of Town and Country Planning stated in the House that he is listing the Red House, Bexley Heath (designed for William Morris by Philip Webb) as a building of special architectural and historic interest. Mr. Dalton said that he had asked Kent County Council to make a building preservation order.

The public inquiry on the proposed development of Mecklenburg Square was held in St. Pancras Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday. After hearing the evidence, Mr. H. G. Warren, for the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, said that he would like to visit the Square.

Three hundred members of the London Master Builders' Association visited the Festival of Britain site on the South Bank last Saturday at the invitation of the organisers.

On the previous evening Mr. Hugh Casson gave a lecture to some 800 of the L.M.B.A. in the Kingsway Hall on exhibition architecture, Mr. R. R. Costain, the President, presided.

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, O.M., has been appointed architect for the restoration of Guildhall and reconstruction of surrounding buildings. Sir Giles received a fee of 1,500 guineas for his preliminary report, in which he recommended the expansion of the present sige.



Ministry of Health Housing Medal

Medals to be awarded each year by the Minister of Health for the best designed local authority housing schemes in each of the eleven housing regions of England and Wales are now being struck in bronze at the Royal Mint. In ten regions awards will be made for the best urban and rural schemes, and in London for the best schemes of new development and of reconstruction.

The sculptor responsible for the design and modelling of the new Housing Medal is Mr. T. H. Paget, O.B.E. The medal is 24 inches in diameter. The obverse carries the Royal Arms with inscription in bold relief. The reverse depicts a terrace of small houses based on the design of those formerly existing in Munster Square: a decorative panel with laurel wreath over plans and models. The medals awarded in Wales through the office of the Welsh Board, will bear an engraved inscription in Welsh, "Gwell gwr o'i barchu."

The Regional Awards Committees for 1950 have now been set up by the Ministry in collaboration with the

R.I.B.A. and the entries for the first awards covering the post-war period ending December, 1949, are now being considered.

The medal is intended to recognise the merit of the design of the estate and each award will be made individually to the architect or designer, who will also receive a diploma signed by the Minister and the Chairman of the awards committee. A separate diploma recording the selection of the Council's scheme will be presented to the local authority.

Alderman P. H. Lawson is the Mayor-elect of Chester for 1950-51. An architect by profession, he studied at the Liverpool School of Architecture and was articled to a Liverpool architect. He has practised in Chester since 1921, being a Fellow of the Liverpool Architectural Society and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He has been a member of the City Council since 1927, was elected an Alderman in 1938, and was Sheriff of the City in 1936-37.

At the R.I.B.A. examination for the office of Building Surveyor under Local Authorities held on April 26, 27, and 28, 1950, ten candidates presented themselves and the following were successful: Mr. Alan C. Corke, Mr. Fred Randle, Mr. Reginald A. Todd.

The Board of Trade Timber Control announces that from Friday, May 12, 1950, headquarters will be removed from present address in Cadogan Square to: Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1. Telephone Number: Chancery 4411.

Copies of R.I.B.A. Prizes and Studentships, 1950-1951, are now obtainable at the R.I.B.A. price 2s. exclusive of postage.

COMING EVENTS

A.A.

 May 31, at 8 p.m., Ordinary General Meeting. "The School and the Artist." Speakers: T. F. Coade, John Hills and John Newsom.

On June 3, at 4 p.m., Mr. John Summerson, Curator of the Soane Museum, will open an exhibition at Studio House, I Hampstead Hill Gardens, Rosslyn Hill, N.W.3. The title of the exhibition is "Six Places in Search of an Artist," and shows how the interiors of six public buildings in Hampstead could be embellished. Artists exhibiting include John Hutton, Hans Feibusch, Mary Adshead, John Minton, Barbara Jones, and others. It has been organised by Hampstead Artists Council, and remains open until July 2, from 12 noon—7 p.m., including Sundays.



Mr. Herbert Kenchington, F.R.I.B.A., and Kenneth and Margaret Farms, A./A.R.I.B.A., are entering into partnership with Denzil Nield, A.R.I.B.A., and the firms of Kenchington & Farms and G. E. Nield & Son are being amalgamated. The new partnership will be under the name of Kenchington, Farms & Nield, and will be carried on at 130 Crawford Street. Tel.: WELbeck 6543.

PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED

The partnership between Denzil Nield, A.R.I.B.A., and Peter Goodridge, A.R.I.B.A., and Elizabeth Foster has been dissolved by mutual consent on Mr. Nield giving up his appointment at the A.A. School of Architecture.

Peter Goodridge will continue to practice at 49 Welbeck Street, Tel. WELbeck 5643 (where he will be pleased to receive trade catalogues).

CORRECTION

In last week's issue, the warehouses illustrated in "Architecture at the Royal Academy" were described as by "Arthur N. Holt." This should be amended to "A. Neville Holt."

CORRESPONDENCE

The R.I.B.A. and its Committees

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—I have read with great interest the letter of Sir Lancelot Keay, which appeared in your issue of the 19th instant regarding the above matter.

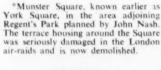
With the utmost respect for the views of our esteemed Past President. for whom I have a profound regard, I must confess that he has failed to convince me that the administration of the R.I.B.A. is incapable of improvement. In my view, that is far from being the case. If the Councils of the Royal Institute and the Allied Societies are prepared to give this matter judicial consideration, I should be quite willing to attend meetings of members at which the matter can be impartially and thoughtfully discussed, and to place my views more fully before I must, however, warn them that the reforms to which I refer in my letter are not the only ones that I have in contemplation.

I am, etc.,
JOHN SWARBRICK.

Nottingham Competition

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—Your correspondents Peter Bartlett and Gordon Graham have missed the point of our new Students' Hostel. It is quite obvious that the choice has been made with the definite intention of making the ex-Service student at Nottingham feel at home. Why else should anyone choose a design so clearly based on those





delightful barrack blocks at Cranwell? must admit to being unable to

understand why the winner was placed ahead of the second prize winner, who had the daring originality to design a barrack block with a tower-admittedly a rather odd tower. Perhaps it was because the tower isn't quite big enough for the clock that is shown on

I am, etc., C. F. Colley. P.S.—Thank you didn't print the losing designs.

IN PARLIAMENT

Development Charge

The Minister of Town and Country Planning informed Mr. J. H. Hare that approximately 28,000 applications had been received for exemption from development charge for land ripe for development, and 20,500 of them had been disposed of. Mr. Hare said the delay was causing considerable inconvenience. Mr. Dalton replied that the figures showed that they had dealt with nearly three-quarters of the total claims. In many other cases they were waiting for further information. Some of the owners were dead, and that led to delay (May 16).

University Building

Sir Stafford Cripps stated in reply to Dr. Jeger that the amount of univer-sity building work licensed since 1945 to the end of the present academic year was approximately £16\(\frac{1}{4}\) millions. Of this amount, slightly less than £4\(\frac{1}{4}\) millions had been in respect of the institutions of the University of London (May 16),

Labour Distribution Figures

Mr. Robson Brown asked the Minister of Works what was the statistical basis for the Government's estimate of the distribution of the building labour force between housing and non-housing work in 1938. Mr. Stokes stated that the estimates were based on figures given in an article on the building and civil engineeering industry nublished in the Oxford Economic Papers No. 7, March, 1945. This article gave estimates of the value and output on various kinds of building and civil engineering work based on the 1935 Census of Production, which the authors claimed was incomplete. The estimates of men employed, which should be treated with reserve, were derived from the value figures by using conversion factors (May 18).

Hospital Architects

According to a reply given by the Minister of Health to Dr. Charles Hill (May 18), the architect's department of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hosnital Board includes 47 professional and technical officers, of whom 24 are architects and architectural staff.

Standards Inquiry

Mr. Albu asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he had yet received the report from the committee which he set up to consider the organisation and constitution of the British Standards Institution. Mr Harold Wilson replied that he had not. He understood that the committee was nearing the end of its task, and was at present engaged on drafting its report. (May 18)

London Airport

Mr. Charles Ian Orr-Ewing asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation what progress he expected to be made during the next year in constructing new buildings at London airport Beswick informed him (May 17) that during the next twelve months a start would be made on terminal buildings in the central area and on permanent hangar blocks and ancillary buildings for British Overseas Airways Corpora. tion and British European Airways Corporation in the maintenance areas. The last two of eight temporary hangars for British Overseas Airways Corporation were now nearing completion.

Materials Prices

Mr. Stokes, Minister of Works, stated in reply to Mr. Porter (May 22) that it was estimated that at a recent date the average increases in deliveredto-site prices compared with 1939 were: bricks (all types) 110 per cent: cement (in bags, delivered London) 72 per cent; timber (building softwood) 250 per cent; rainwater goods 75 per cent; light castings 150 per cent; and general ironmongery 117 per cent.

Regional Advisory Service

Mr. Stokes stated in answer to Mr. Nigel Fisher on May 22 that the Cambridge advisory service for the building industry was instituted as an experimental measure to assist in discharging in the regions the Ministry's responsibility for encouraging the adoption by the industry of the results of research and development in building. technical officers were employed on the service. One of their functions was to deal with inquiries relating to technical or site organizational problems, and during 1949 there were 72 such inquiries received from contractors, in addition to those from local authorities, technical colleges, and Government departments. arrangements were renewed in 1949. and after consultation with the industry it was decided to establish in all regions in England and Wales and in Scotland a technical information officer. The duty of this officer was to co-operate with the industry and professions in encouraging the adoption of the latest developments in building practice and in making the results of research widely known.

Steel Allocation Ended

The Government's decision to terminate the system of steel allocation was announced by the Minister of Supply on May 22. Mr. Strauss said they had completed their review of the distribution scheme, and had decided that with the exception of steel and tinplate, supplies of which were not yet adequate—the distribution of steel need no longer be subject to allocation or licence. Such regulation of exports as remained necessary would be effected by administrative arrangements between the Government and the steel industry. The similar administrative arrangements now existing for regulating the home distribution of certain types of tubes and pipes would continue for the time being.

The Government would also keep under review the distribution of other types of steel so that should any shortage again develop special arrangements could be made for dealing with the situation. Statistics of distribu-tion of steel deliveries to the various consuming industries would be maintained, without burden to the consumers, simply by requiring them to quote on their orders for steel an indication of their industrial classification. Orders to give effect to these changes would be laid in a few days.

Building Costs Debate

Mr. Duncan Sandys, an ex-Minister of Works, opened for the Opposition. He claimed that the Mr. Duncan Sandys, broad verdict of the Working Party that the productive efficiency of the building industry was now 20 per cent below pre-war level was attributable to a large extent to factors within the Government's control.

He went on to say that so precarious was the present timber position that it was almost impossible to supply builders with their requirements for current contracts. He urged the Government to make fuller use of private enterprise builders, whose methods were faster and more economical than the Government's. He said that the Anglo-American Produc-tivity Team's Report made the same recommendation. Mr. Sandys said that shortage of materials had a damaging effect on output as operatives were unwilling to exert themselves for fear of working themselves out of a

Mr. Stokes. Minister of Works. denied that the Government controlled the industry at every point. They laid down the overall programme and left a great deal to the industry to decide. subject to total availability of materials and labour.

Mr. Stokes said that the Working were wrong in thinking the trouble was overloading. There was a scarcity of materials and it was impossible for the Minister of Health to wait for stocks to build up before he started. Mr. Stokes blamed the Opposition for the lack of co-ordination in the industry. Most of the industry seemed to belong to them. He claimed that the Working Party Report

plumped wholeheartedly for planning. Mr. Stokes said that he started deliberations with the National Consultative Council for the Building Industry 10 days ago and was meeting it again this week. The success of those deliberations depended entirely on the good will of those with whom he was seeking to co-operate.

Referring to incentives, Mr. Stokes said that they would never get output up and costs down and a high standard of work unless there were incentives. He mentioned the L.C.C. incentive scheme under which a house reduction of £63 was obtained—" a staggering

result."

Mr. Stokes said his Ministry had always encouraged the use of mechanical aids, but small employers often could not afford the capital cost of plant. He was looking into the question of how that could be remedied. With regard to the shortage of timber, Mr. Stokes said there was a reserve of some 38,000 standards in the hands of the timber control from which issues could be made to prevent stoppage of work on building schemes. Provided licensing authorities behaved with discretion and merchants did not demand more than they ought to, there was no reason why we should not get through our immediate programme. Stocks would begin to build up after the next two or three months.

Mr. Marples said that the Govern-

ment must decide what the size of the industry was going to be over not less than the next 10 years, and should set up a committee to investigate measures for simplifying controls and licensing procedure, and to secure closer integration of technical, economic and social requirements.

Mr. Gibson claimed that we have as good a record in house building as any

country in the world.

Mr. Mikardo did not think the Working Party Report was unbiased, and wanted the Government to compel the diversion of labour and materials from the inefficient to the efficient. (He is a business efficiency consultant.)

Mr. Bevan, Minister of Health, said that the building industry was, with few exceptions, a private-enterprise in-The industry was very fragmented. The Government inherited the structure of the industry and also a whole series of bad war time building When he went to the Minpractices. istry of Health in 1945 the industry was diluted with all sorts of queer people, all sorts of spivs who had started to work in it and were earning a considerable amount of money. The first thing he had to do was to get rid of the cost-plus system, and weed out those who were in the industry merely to make short-term profits. His second big difficulty, apart from certain other matters, was the bad practice of negotiated prices for houses,

One of his chief difficulties was to get the principle of competitive tenders established. The builders had formed themselves into ring after ring all over the country and were insisting that he should agree to prices which were exorbitant. He was asked by Manchester to approve tenders at 34s, per super foot when the competitive tender price was 21s. He told Manchester not to accept the tenders and in the end the ring was broken.

The building industry had not yet learned how to conduct its building operations economically in a society with full employment. The building industry must learn the elementary wisdom of assembling its bits and pieces and planning its job before it

began.

Were the Opposition prepared to leave it to Tory authorities, full of speculative builders, to decide how many houses were going to be built to rent and how many for sale? Had that policy been adopted in 1945 there would have been housing riots all over the country. (Ministerial cheers.) It had been alleged that the costs of local authority houses were disproportionate, but housing prices had gone up by 14 per cent., whereas the wholesale index had risen by 45 per cent and building materials by 42 per cent.

(From Our Parliamentary Correspondent)

COMPETITION RESULT

New Civic Hall, Guildford

• Ist premium (£1,000): L. F. Richards, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., and Charles W. H. Wright; 18 Walton Gardens, Folkestone. (Design No. 35)

2nd premium (£500): W. S. Bryant, A.R.I.B.A. and G. A. H. Pearce, A.R.I.B.A., A.I.A.A.; "Barony," Prospect Avenue, Farnborough, Hants. (Design No. 62)

• 3rd premium (£250): Eric G. Broughton, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., A.R.C.A.; 52 Homefield Road, Chiswick, London. (Design No. 88)

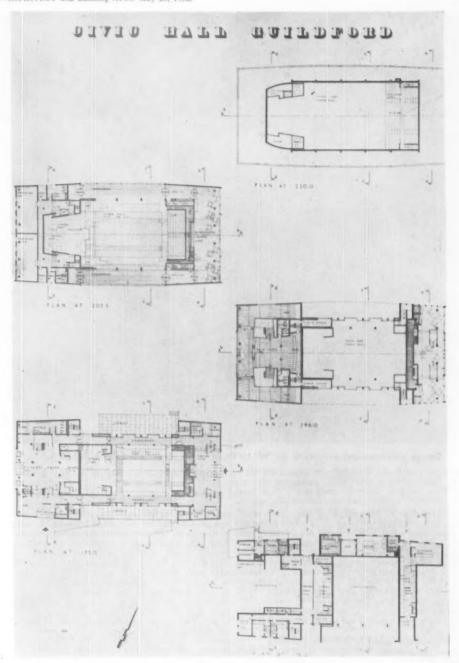
Extracts from the report of the Assessor, Mr. G. A. JELLICOE, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., F.I.L.A. THE Council is to be congratulated upon both quantity and quality of the (102) competitive designs. The problem was not easy and resolved itself into one of good architecture related to costs. Many competitors failed to appreciate the limitations of cost, and some fine schemes could not be seriously considered for this reason alone.

The site lends itself to variations of grouping. Most competitors separated their two halls as distinct units and disposed these, sometimes extremely graciously, in an informal grouping. Competitors found difficulty in expressing the quality of a Civic Hall rather than two halls of a functional character, and in some of the most interesting designs there was too much glass area to be practical. More than one competitor endeavoured, for instance, to resolve the architectural problem of two parallel halls by endeavouring to unite them into a single composition by a titanic glass foyer extending across both fronts. In the Assessor's view, the winning design is outstanding.

The design placed FIRST is a high work of art in so much that all parts, from the halls themselves to the smallest service unit, are subordinate to one idea; and that idea, like all good ideas, is extremely simple and beautiful. The authors have followed this through with skill and sensitivity, and although the building belongs to the present day, and expresses this fact, the assessor feels that it will fall harmoniously into the community of buildings of all dates that is characteristic of Guildford. It will indeed be a building of which the town may be justly proud. Particular attention should be paid to the flexibility of the use of the building, the spaciousness of the fovers and promenades, the complete separation of traffic to the two halls, and the extreme economy of use of land on the site itself.

The design as presented is not without faults, but (except for minor errors of planning which may easily be rectified) these faults manifest themselves in the sections rather than in the plans or elevations, and may be traced to the desire for a low cube and so ultimately to the question of cost.

These faults have



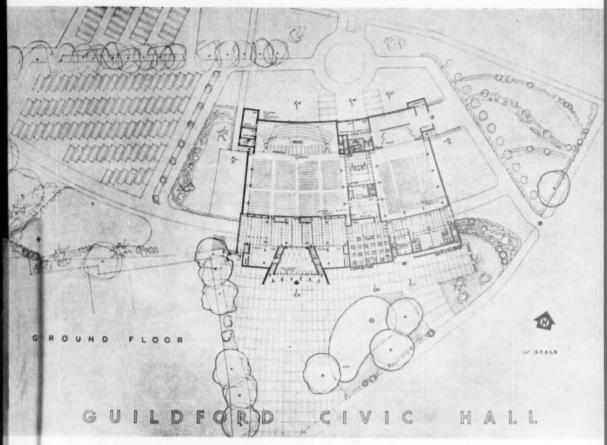
The winning design, by L. F. Richards, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., and C. W., H. Wright

been summarised by Mr. Hope Bagenal in his advice to the assessor as follows:

The dissociation of structure between the two halls is not adequate to give good insulation of noise. There may be hammering of sets on stage below

and a concert going on above; therefore structural dissociation and also insulation of airborne sound must be complete.

The small hall does not (as shown) fulfil requirement 29 (3): "A theatre for amateur theatricals



Design awarded 2nd premium, by W. S. Bryant and G. A. H. Pearce, AA.R.I.B.A.

and operatics". Theatricals of any kind need seven feet minimum of flying space above the pros-cenium, even when a "fly" tower is not called for.

The height of large hall is insufficient; opening to sub-gallery is only eight feet six inches. The ceiling height above top gallery seat is only seven feet. A minimum of 10 feet is desirable in each feet. A minimum of 10 feet is desirable in each case. The rake of the balcony is broken at centre;

it should be continuous and a greater rake. Concert hall staging should be on the curve.

Concert hall ceiling. Cross section curve useful but long section curve is not useful. Ceiling better stepped up.

Mr. Bagenal also adds the following caution:

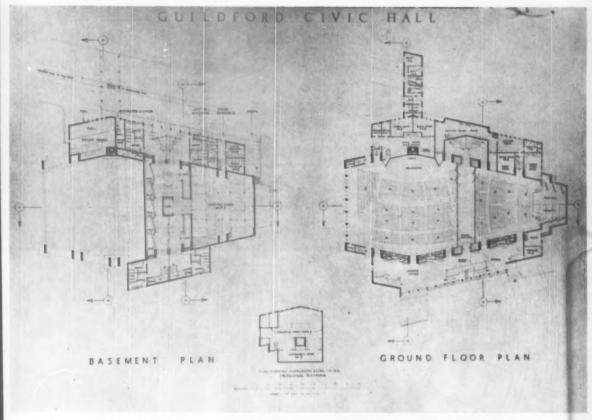
In order to preserve dissociation of structure the two halls must be on separate heating systems; pipes and trunkings must not knit up the two halls.

The authors appear to be more than 10 per cent. in error on their cube figure and in view of the complex reinforced structure they have employed, the assessor cannot agree that the building as shown and specified could be built at the required price. Furthermore the

additional heights required when this building is erected, will call for additional expenditure, though not excessively so. In their report the authors say that they have not included such decoration as sculpture and murals which could be added as economy allowed. The assessor, having studied the form of the building with great care is of the opinion that the principle of incompletion of finishings could justifiably be extended to most parts except the exterior and the two halls themselves. With this in mind, and with the acceptance of a low specification for the minor parts, he is of the opinion that this building could be erected with the additional height required for a sum within 10 per cent. of that laid down in the Conditions of Competition. He would emphasise here that this compact building is probably the most economical of all designs received in maintenance charges, such as heating, etc.

Under Clause 6 of the Conditions of Competition the assessor advises that the authors be requested to modify and reconsider their design in the following respects:

1. To add to the heights of the hall as described above, and take such precautions and make such



Design awarded 3rd premium, by Eric G. Broughton, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., A.R.C.A.

variations to shape as are necessary in regard to acoustics.

 To re-study the orientation of the building in order to determine, in collaboration with the Council, whether they have made best use of the site in relation to potential but undecided town planning developments.

Compared with the winning design, the drawings awarded SECOND Premium show a somewhat clumsy grouping on the site. Otherwise it is an excellent design, the elevations having an air of dignity and monumentality suited to a Civic Hall. The halls are placed parallel, and are structurally sufficiently separated for acoustics. The levels are well used and there is an ingenious car approach which is admirable both for separation from pedestrian circulation and for wet weather. The pedestrian forecourt to the London Road could be particularly agreeable.

Internally the foyers and refreshment rooms are ample, and have beautiful perspectives; the halls are well shaped; and the secondary planning is adequate. An interesting proposal has been made for a balancing floor for the small hall, but the idea is necessarily excluded from the Competition on the score of cost.

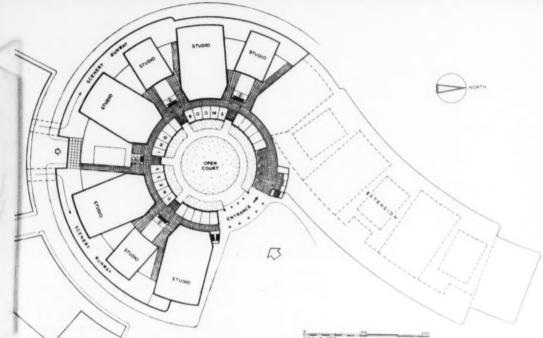
The design placed THIRD has not the architectural distinction of the previous two, and some of the planning

of the less important parts is ill-conceived and at times scarcely adequate. It is more a festival hall than a town hall ("dignified, cheerful, sportive, edifice" to use the competitors' own description). Nevertheless this design, with modifications, provides the requirements in a way that could be built within the cost, and in addition attempts, not unsuccessfully, to allow for both halls to be joined on occasions to form one majestic hall. The treatment of the interiors is original and the idea of the balconies is delightful. A noble suggestion for conversion of a ramped floor to a flat floor has been put forward which might be satisfactory. The practical success of this plan depends upon proper sound proofing and dissociation of structure between one hall and another. In view of the fact that only on rare occasions would the screens be folded away, and therefore not so much liable to human and mechanical fault, it would seem that they might be a practical proposition. A special study would be required.

The assessor wishes to thank Mr. Hope Bagenal, and Mr. A. C. Matthews of Messrs. H. J. Venning & Partners, Quantity Surveyors, for their advice respectively on accoustics and on costing.

[The Editor regrets that the Elevations and Sections of these designs are not included this week as it was necessary to rephotograph.]



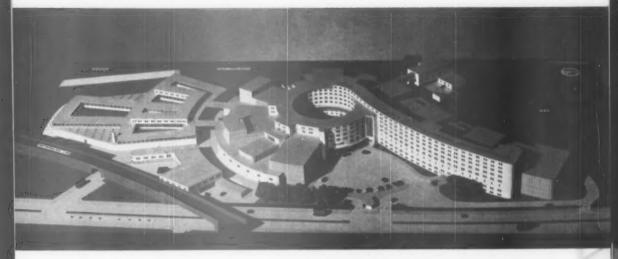


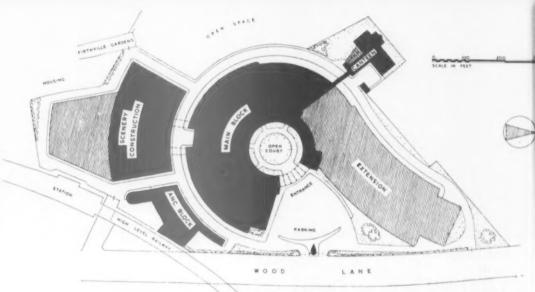
B.B.C. PROPOSED TELEVISION DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE the war the B.B.C. was seeking a suitable site on which to build permanent studios and ancillary accommodation in London because the studios at Alexandra Palace were neither adequate in size nor sufficient in number. On the cessation of hostilities the search was resumed. In 1947 the Corporation decided that the White City Exhibition site at Shepherds Bush was on the whole the most favourable of the many sites which had been considered.

It was originally intended that a planning competition should be instituted in connection with the development of the site as a whole. It was later decided however that this would be unsuitable having regard to the necessity for maintaining a considerable degree of flexibility as to the eventual use of the second half of the site. Instead, the B.B.C. invited the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects to submit names of architects suitable for a project of this kind. From the recommendations received, the Corporation chose GRAHAM DAWBARN. C.B.E., M.A., F.R.I.B.A. (Norman & Dawbarn), who on November 18, 1949, was appointed, in association with M. T. Tudsbery, C.B.E., M.Inst.C.E., the B.B.C.'s Civil Engineer. Early in the present year an architectural conception had been evolved which was deemed by the B.B.C.'s professional advisers (HOWARD ROBERTSON, M.C., A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A.) and W. G. HOLFORD, M.A., F.R.I.B.A.) to provide a striking architectural solution of requirements, taking into account the problem of neighbourhood and site conditions generally. The proposals were thereupon considered by the Board of Governors of the B.B.C. and adopted as being distinctive and at the same time having character, originality, and fulfilling their function.

The design, illustrated on these pages, has its main





entrance at the junction between the curvilinear "tailpiece" and the multi-storey "ring" shown as lying around the central open court.

around the central open court.

On the lower floors of the "ring" there would be accommodated artists' reception areas, dressing rooms, etc., quickly accessible to:

2 studios each 75ft. x 120ft. x 45ft. high,

,, 75ft. x 120ft. x 45ft. high for length of 80ft., and 60ft. high for 40ft.
 ,, 70ft. x 50ft. x 35ft. high.

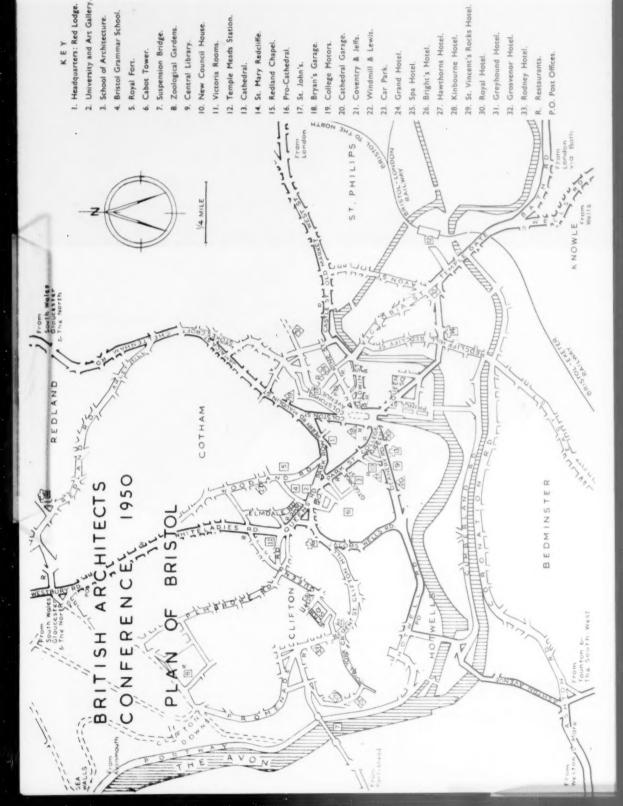
A Presentation Suite would be provided between Studios 1 and 2 (see layout), where announcements, captions, telecine and other inserted items would be televised.

Control and Apparatus rooms, etc. are planned to

be accommodated on lower floors of the "ring"; these would have observation windows overlooking the Studios at elevation approximately plus 25ft. Above these and other technical areas would be administrative and other offices of the service.

At the outer end of the studios it is planned to provide (see layout) a closed continuous scenery-runway, of a size sufficient for the reception at each studio of assembled scenery units, some 25ft. long by 15ft wide. by 25 ft. high, which would be conveyed to the studios upon "floats" from the Scenery Block shown lying to the south of the Main Block on the plan.

The B.B.C. hope to build and occupy the premises progressively; and, subject to the limitations of capital investment, plan to have the Scenery Block completed by the end of 1952.





Bristol from the air. The Conference H.Q. is marked with a white arrow. The tower of Bristol University designed by the late Sir George Oatley is seen on the left.

THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF BRISTOL

by Bryan Little

IF an architect from London visits Bristol, whichever way he approaches he will come at once upon choice gleanings from the city's great and varied architectural wealth.

If his transport is by rail, he will see to the right, as he draws in to Temple Meads, the leaning tower of the Temple Church, in any case a fine 15th-century work of the Somerset school, but also unique among English church towers in its Pisan lean, fortunate in its survival of the raids that left the rest of the church a

gutted shell. Then in the station itself the far end of the terminal section (starting at platform 12) contains in their untouched perfection the Perpendicular arches, hammerbeam roof, and castellated Gothic façade of Brunel's original Bristol terminus of the 1830's—surely one of our most noteworthy pieces of early railway architecture.

If our architect comes by road from Bath he is not far across the city border when he drives through Brislington with its excellent 15th-century village church,



Bristol Cathedral Choir.

adorned with a West tower whose needle-spirelet on a corner pinnacle is typical of many in North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Then in quick succession there follow the blend of conventional mid-Georgian and fantastic Horace Walpole Gothick that make up the ensemble of Arno's Court and "Castle," and a short distance past them the remarkable group of neo-Grec buildings that are the lodges and chapels, dating from the 1830's, of the cemetery at Arno's Vale. Medieval,



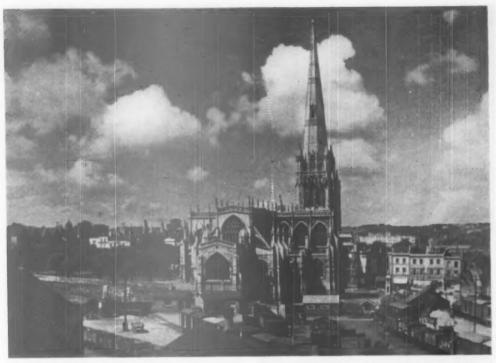
Bristol Cathedral. The Chapter House.

conventional Georgian, Horace Walpole and early railway Gothick, Grecian, our introduction to Bristol's architecture is varied, dramatic, an earnest of the city's wealth.

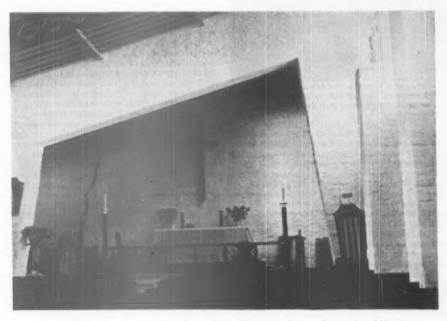
Bristol architecture, of course, reflects the various phases in the city's social history; it does so more fully for the last 250 years, the survivals from before the late 17th century being pitifully few apart from churches and What is left from the Middle Ages is almshouses. almost wholly ecclesiastical, valuable as a record of devotion and of the evolution of a cultured taste in good building, but not enough to form a complete record of Bristol the social entity that William of Worcester perambulated. There are, however, the late Norman arches in the Law Library in Small Street; these survive from a late 12th-century half or private house that must have been in nearly the same class as Oakham Castle Hall among our secular architecture of the time. Then in the Museum is preserved the magnificently adorned and panelled late 14th-century doorway of Spicer's house, showing how ambitious were the Bristot merchants of the late Middle Ages. Unfortunately the even more splendid 15th-century residence of the famous William Canynges the younger, an elaborate timber work with oriets of an advanced design, survives only in pictures. Curiously enough, Bristol's best piece of medieval domestic architecture is really the relic of a Somerset country manor. Many visiting architects will pro-bably go to see the modern church of Holy Cross at Filwood Park, a housing estate on the very southern outskirts of the city (incidentally the dedication and 18th-century font of this church both came from the bombed Temple Church whose tower we have already noticed). Its vicarage was once a farmhouse, but part of its structure is the exquisite polygonal mullioned and buttressed porch of the 15th-century country seat of Sir John Inyn, a local landowner who was also a judge and whose fine brass is in St. Mary Redcliffe.

The church architecture of medieval Bristol includes all Rickman's styles, though Early English is somewhat under-represented. The later the work the more characteristic it is of the West. Only at the end of the Middle Ages, in the exquisite early Tudor work in the Lord Mayor's Chapel (originally the Hospital Church of St. Mark) do we get designs more reminiscent of the Court school.

The one church that is completely Norman (bar a tower of the late 14th century and an appalling Victorian aisle) is St. James'. It was the nave of a small Benedictine Priory, a dependency of Tewkesbury Abbey and founded by Earl Robert of Gloucester, whose castle keep would be among our finest did more than its foundations still exist. It survives because it became parochial in 1374; the monastic part of the church has disappeared. It is a work of modest size and great merit, not at all like Tewkesbury and with a sadly worn west front whose wall areade and wheel window above it are of text-book interest for students of Romanesque. the finest Norman work in Bristol, and some of the finest in England, is at the Cathedral, once the Augustinian Abbey church of St. Augustine (of Canterbury). The masonry of the south transept is from the original church consecrated in 1148, but the Chapter House and much restored Great Gateway are from a later, more brilliant phase. The Chapter House and its arcaded vestibule are beyond question the finest of their kind in the country; nowhere else can one see how rich an interior could be produced by the use of interlaced wall arcading and the usual Norman mouldings. Notable, too, at the intersections of the vault ribs both in the Chapter House and its vestibule and under the gateway,



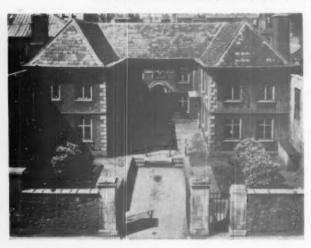
A view of St. Mary Redcliffe which well shows the characteristics that are so unusual in an English parochial church of the Middle Ages—the cruciform plan with aisled transepts, the flying buttresses, the Eastern Lady Chapel.



Interior of the Church of the Holy Cross, Filwood Park. Architects: Burrough and Hannam.



The Llandoger Trow; half-timbered work of as late as 1664.



The Merchant Tailors' Almshouses are an excellent example of the almshouse architecture of Bristol at the break of the 18th century, They are dated 1701.



The interior of John Wesley's New Room, the oldest of all Methodist Chapels. The work is mainly that of 1748; the Bath stone pillars may have been designed by Thomas Paty.

are the rudimentary bosses which Mr. Cave in his recent work has declared to be among the earliest bosses in the country. The best Early English work is also in the Cathedral, in the Elder Lady Chapel that leads off to the east of the north transept, an exquisite gem whose carving at least seems to have been by the same craftsmen as worked on the west front at Wells. Other work of the 13th century is scattered up and down among the churches of Bristol—in the Lord Mayor's Chapel, at St. Philip's, in the Cutlers' Hall at Quakers' Friars, which is a relic of the Dominican Friary, at Westbury-on-Trym and Henbury, and in the splendid wall arcade of the inner north porch at St. Mary Redcliffe. But the complete buildings of 13th-century Bristol have all been replaced or demolished.

With the 14th century we come to a pronounced, recognisable West Country school, making admirable use of the local limestone and imparting its inspiration northward to Gloucestershire and west into the country of Somerset; both areas seem also to have given ideas

to Bristol, and the town, as the chief commercial centre of the West, may well have been as much a clearing house for cultural ideas as for merchandise. What is certain is that the Cathedral choir and the rebuilt St. Mary Redcliffe are a pair of buildings of the utmost note in our architectural history. They are the work of designers who played a part, more important perhaps than we shall ever be able to tell precisely, in the development, in the lower basin of the Severn, of the Perpendicular style.

Unfortunately, the documents are lost that could settle the chronology and authorship of the work, of such pioneering importance, in the south transept and choir at Gloucester and in the choir at Bristol. But it seems that the last stages of the work at Bristol were almost contemporary with the casing of Gloucester's Norman choir and transepts in a screen of early Perpendicular panelling and tracery. The "Perpendicular" character of the stonework at Gloucester is well known and obvious. Scarcely less in the same spirit as Gloucester's choir, and perhaps earlier in date, are the lofty arches and transomed windows of Bristol Cathedral's choir as rebuilt under the rule of Abbot Edmund Knowle, who died in 1332, the work being unfinished at his death. This choir is a supremely important work, in essence like the Hall-Churches of the Friars and secular clergy in the great trading cities of Northern Europe, a complete departure from the conventional English monastic design of arcade, triforium and clerestory above. It is essentially a great one-storey design, with its arches the loftiest of any arcade in Medieval England. The aisles, with their curious little strainer vaults, are almost of the same height; the design is a forerunner of hundreds of waggon-roofed churches up and down the West Country. Nor are the minor features of the Cathedral choir of less interest than the main design. There is the rarity of the skeleton vault in the vestibule to the Berkeley Chapel, and along the aisle walls are a whole set of tomb recesses, with their rare and beautiful " stellate " decoration that links them to a set of recesses, probably by the same hand, in the south nave aisle of St. Mary Redeliffe.

Redcliffe Church had long been of an architectural

quality well above that of the average place of worship of an English medieval town. Late in the 13th century, or very early in the next, it had been given its superbly designed and decorated octagonal outer north porch, a work of a quality and exuberance hard to match and well up to the highest standards of contemporary Then in about 1330 or 1340 there French Gothic. started the rebuilding of the body of the church, all but the massive 13th-century structure of the tower, adorned by now with Decorated motifs and crowned in the same 14th century with the spire whose upper portion was blown down in 1446 (the upper part of the present spire is modern). The rebuilding proved to be a long-drawn operation, probably interrupted in its early stages by the Black Death, most of it carried out in the later part of the 14th century or early in the next, at a time when the Perpendicular style was fully developed and taken as a matter of course. Only the south transept, with its windows that are reminiscent of Lichfield, is unmistakably Decorated in its style; the choir seems like a plainer, Perpendicular version of that at Wells, and may draw some of its basic inspiration from that source (Redcliffe Church was in Bath and Wells diocese all through the Middle Ages).

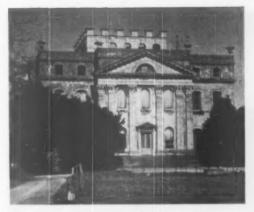
Coming after such a pair of 14th-century buildings, the remaining Perpendicular work in Bristol is something of an anti-climax, copious in volume, some of it, as in the church of St. Stephen, of good quality, but in a minor key when compared with the Cathedral choir and Redcliffe. But in most of our cities Bristol's 15thcentury architecture would be considered an unusually good collection. At the opening of the century come the two surviving "wall-churches," St. John's with its famous belfry-cum-gateway and an unaisled nave and chancel whose narrow dimensions are dictated by the site, and St. Nicholas', whose vaulted crypt survived both the 18th-century Gothic rebuilding and more modern bombing of the rest of the church. Later in the 15th century there came the fabrics of several churches in typical West Country Perpendicular, but greater rarity and far better work are in the suburbs, at Westburyon-Trym. There the surviving wing and gate of Bishop Carpenter's College are reminiscent of a small quad at Oxford, and in the choir of the noble church is that architectural rarity only, to my knowledge, paralleled at Coventry Cathedral, an apsidal sanctuary of the 15th century

Time has dealt hard (bar the Red Lodge) with Tudor domestic architecture; the best example in 1940 was the Aldworths' mansion, later St. Peter's Hospital, and that was utterly destroyed. Undoubtedly the half-timber tradition of the local house-builders was continued under Elizabeth, and still more so under the Stuarts, as the magnificent collection of Braikenridge drawings in the City Art Gallery shows. Street upon street of elaborate half-timber fronts concealed a wealth of strapwork plaster ceilings and richly carved chimneypieces in freestone, the part above the fireplace adorned with a mixture of caryatids and angels, of heraldry and Some such chimneypieces are prescriptural scenes. served at the Red Lodge; there are dozens shown in detail in the Braikenridge drawings, some of them, for all their Jacobean feeling and artistic kinship to Bristol's ornate group of church monuments early in the century, bearing dates as late as the 1670's. A few such houses are still with us, notably in King Street, with its range of 1663-4 containing the famous "Landoger Trow." They are typical of a tenacious West Country conser-

vatism in architecture that could make the Gothic tradi-

tion survive, even in a city like Bristol, to the very

end of the 17th century. Nowhere is this blend of



Kingsweston House, built by Vanbrugh in 1710.



Redland Chapel, designed by John Strachan, 1743.

Renaissance and surviving Gothic shown better than in Bristol's almshouse architecture. There are five important surviving blocks-the remaining half of the Merchant Venturers', the Merchant Tailors' (now the Weights and Measures Office), the magnificent, Collegelike three-sided court at Colston's, the rebuilt Burton's, and Ridley's. All of them, with a Renaissance idiom applied to a basically medieval design, also have in their squared yet mullioned fenestration something that harks back to the days of tracery and miniature diamond panes. The shell of Ridley's, built of squared freestone as late as 1739-41, is specially notable as a staunch piece of old-fashioned vernacular lingering on into the midst of Georgianism.

We come now to the 18th century, period of Bristol's great prosperity as England's second city, of the greatest architectural expansion the city had yet witnessed. It was a time of renewed variety, of variety in the types of Bristol's buildings and in the purposes they were called upon to serve, also of a new and fascinating

variety in the materials used.



The stone-faced residences of Portland Square (c. 1790) were fashionable when first built. St. Paul's Church, with its remarkable steeple, Wren with Gothick detail, was designed by Daniel Hague and consecrated in 1794.

Hitherto the stock materials of Bristol had been timber and plaster for domestic work, stone of various types only for the grander houses, for public buildings, for churches. There is evidence that bricks were made in Bristol as early as 1673, but these may have been for industrial purposes such as the lining of glass furnaces rather than for ordinary house construction. The immediate locality provided, and still provides, plenty of grey or pinkish lias or pennant for the main structure of walls, and this was the normal material for the churches of the Middle Ages, with freestone, also from the district, for the worked quoins and mullions. For such important buildings as the Cathedral or St. Mary Redcliffe, for the canopied tombs with which the area is so well supplied, there was the particularly beautiful limestone from the great hill-ridge of Dundry, a few miles to the south. Bath stone did not find its way to Bristol till the days of more efficient river transport in the 18th century. But in Georgian times the range of materials used by Bristol builders was far wider than heretofore. Pennant and freestone were still available, and marble for monuments was easy to import by sea. Much work was done in a beautiful local brick of a dark red hue, and many buildings, whether in brick or pennant, were faced with freestone or with the honeycoloured Bath stone that was much in demand by the builders of terraces in imitation of Bath. Finally, there was a strange material of particularly local character, the blocks and capstones for walls cast out of the blackish-purple slag of the spelter and copper works; it is most common out on the eastern side of Bristol in the mining and industrial area of Kingswood, used more for corner stones and other accessory parts of buildings than for the main structure of walls. But at times it is the main material, and as it is extremely durable it has lasted well in some buildings of an ornamental or decorative type. Its most notable use is in the gazebo at Warmley Towers and in the handsome Gothick stable block at Arno's "Castle," a blend of black walling and grey stone dressings aptly dubbed "The Devil's Cathedral" by none other than Horace Walpole himself.

The Georgian buildings of Bristol are there, broadly speaking, to perform four functions. There are the public buildings, cast up and down the city and its outskirts without being arranged to any definite planchurches new or rebuilt, the Theatre Royal, the Halls of the Bristol Companies, the Library, the Commercial Rooms, the Council House of 1824, Wood of Bath's magnificent Exchange of the 1740's. There is also the three-arched Bristol Bridge of the 1760's, built to replace that of the 13th century with the local James Bridges as its designer, still retaining its Georgian arches though they are scarce to be seen beneath a ham-handed and insensitive widening of the last century. Then we have the residential growth of the city to meet the needs of a commercial class more prosperous than ever before and increasingly particular where it lived. An extension of this same residential development is the building of good-class houses in many of the surrounding country areas and villages. Then there is the growth of the very separate Spa-cum-resort community of the Hotwells and Clifton.

Both in the 18th and early 19th centuries Bristol has work to show by architects of national standing. There were also designers of purely local fame—Strahan, the Paty family, James Bridges, Allen, and Hague. We come now, in Bristol as elsewhere, to the age of buildings by known architects, though there are cases where the underlying economic and artistic factors are more important than precise attributions. Most of the buildings



College Street was built about 1770 by Luke Henwood. A house in the foreground has the windows with their five keystones that are so typical of Bristol Georgian, and the street is the best of all places in the city to see Georgian bow windows. It was in this street that Coleridge lodged and Friese Green, inventor of cinematography, was born.



Albermarie Road, Clifton, 1750-60.

by "national" architects are individual, isolated structures; the areas of more extensive development squares, terraces, streets, parades, are by the local school.

The old city was only in part Georgianised and the parishes nearest to the central districts were as much concerned with manufactures as with merchanting and residence. But Bristol is poor in her survivals from 18th-century industry. Her skyline was once as much broken by the cones of kilns and glass furnaces as by steeples, but of them as of her old shipyards there are no traces now except for one possible glass-cone and the ruins of the copper works, down by the Avon at Crew's Hole above the city. In the central parishes themselves Georgian houses and public buildings are less in evidence now than their successors, and some like the Assembly Rooms and Merchants' Hall were destroyed at various times in our own century, nor in every case by German bombs. But here, none the less, are Bristol's chief examples of Georgian public archi-They are seldom as monumental in their scale as befits England's second city; they lose something of their due effect because they are not grouped together in any unified lay-out or formal design, but many are of great merit and interest. John Wood the Elder's Palladian Exchange of 1740-3 is the finest composition, reminiscent in some ways of his work in Queen Square at Bath and greatly admired even in its own time; the colonnaded piazza at the back clearly derives from the Royal Exchange in London. A group of Georgian churches and portions of churches reminds one in a small way of the Wren-Gibbs sequence in the capital, and the steeples of the Bristol skyline are a striking mixture of the Middle Ages and the days of the slave trade. Opposite the Exchange, Corn Street has, in the coffee room of the Commercial Rooms, a Regency building of 1810-1 by C. A. Busby, who later did so much at Brighton, a brilliant interior that could scarcely have been bettered even in its own time. By comparison the nearby Council House, correctly and Grecianly rebuilt by C. R. Cockerell in 1824, is somewhat tame. He did far better round the corner in his massive Doric Bank of England of 1847; the building is very like his work for his Bank of England employers at Liverpool. places of worship include an 18th-century group of Nonconformist Chapels and the imposing Meeting House of 1747-9, built to the designs of Thomas Paty by the wealthy Quaker body as a replacement of an earlier The best known of these chapels is John Wesley's New Room. It was started in 1739, but the present pillared and galleried interior is almost wholly a rebuild of 1748; the columns are strikingly like those of the



Berkeley Square, 1770-80.



Duke Street, mainly late 17th century with 18th and 19th century additions.

Quaker Meeting House. A more distinguished building is the Classic chapel of the Unitarians in Lewin's Mead; it replaced an earlier one in 1787-8, with its designer an otherwise unknown London architect called Blackburn. By way of contrast, King Street saw in 1764-6 the building of the Theatre Royal. This is perhaps the greatest treasure, if only because of its all but unique rarity, in the whole corpus of Bristol Georgian. The architect was James Paty, but the effective model, particularly for the stage and proscenium design, was Wren's Drury Lane.

The residential areas of Georgian Bristol are those most exclusively the work of local, often anonymous designers; more than the public buildings they show the local, vernacular features of the Bristol architecture of the time. New quarters were built as dwelling places for the more prosperous citizens, and they arose in several directions on the outskirts. At first they were on comparatively low and level ground, then as the fashion grew for views and vistas they appeared on such ridges as Kingsdown and on the slopes of Brandon Hill in the direction of Clifton. The process, minus the aristocratic element that developed the Mayfair estates, is very like what occurred in London. The great expanse of Queen (Anne) Square was the first of these opulent residential districts, along with its close neighbour Prince (George of Denmark) Street and Orchard Street on the Brandon Hill side of the River Froom. Then on the eastern side of Bristol there came two sequences, first that of St. James', Brunswick, and Portland Squares, and on the other side of Stokes Croft a district with its main features in King (George II) Square, Jamaica Street and Carolina Row. All these (bar the stone-faced Portland Square) were mainly in local brick with stone dressings, and in spite of bombs and great deterioration the bulk of the work survives; the worst damage was done in Oueen Square by the rioters of 1831, and two sides had to be almost wholly rebuilt in a not very inspired Grecian, dominated by the new Custom House by Sydney Smirke. It is in these fine living quarters, and in hundreds of other Georgian houses up and down the Bristol area. that one notices certain points that one may call characteristic of Bristol 18th-century work. There are the keystones in the form of grotesque masks, and other points of detail more exuberant than one finds in most Georgian exteriors. There is a strong vein of provincial conservatism, the use as late as the 1760's or 1770's



Queen Square, North Side. This is one of the two sides rebuilt after the riots of 1831. In the foreground is the new Custom House by Sidney Smirke.

of features that the London area and the academic architects had used but had long discarded, the fondness, for instance, for heavy, splayed keystones over windows and of square blocks at intervals down the jambs-a feature one finds, in the form of windows surmounted by five, seven, or nine splayed keystones, in hundreds of Bristol houses (and also at Bridgwater) down as late as Victoria's reign. The houses were adorned inside with rich woodwork in West India mahogany, and there worked in Bristol an exuberantly Rococo school of stuccatori. Thomas Stocking being a leading figure; his work is found in Bristol itself in such houses as Arno's Court and the Royal Fort, and in the district at Corsham Court and in the Royal Crescent at Bath. There was also in Bristol a great fondness for bow windows which long outlived Georgian architecture; bows thrust out into pavements became a nuisance and had to be forbidden by the Regulating Act of 1788.

Side by side with the residential extensions there came the building in the district of what in their own time amounted to country houses for Bristol merchants with a desire to be country gentry as well. The superb pioneer of this fashion was the Southwells' house at Kingsweston, replacing a Tudor or Stuart house and the work of Vanbrugh in c. 1710-3. By Vanbrugh stan-



The Paragon, Clifton. A crescent built between 1809 and 1820, possibly to the design of John Drew. The curious porches also occur in a few houses of Cornwallis Crescent.

dards it is a mere cottage, but it is easily the largest house of its period within the city of Bristol; it has a brilliant pilastered façade and exploits a site that has a view across the Severn estuary to the hills of South Wales. Scarcely if at all less notable is the architectural ensemble at Henbury, near the other end of Kingsweston Hill. There an older house was replaced after 1795 by the Blaise Mansion, designed by William Paty, to which Nash and C. R. Cockerell made additions. Within its domain, on the hilltop belvedere of Blaise Hill, is the "Castle" in Georgian Gothic that a previous owner had built as a summerhouse-cum-viewpoint in 1768; his architect was Robert Mylne. Then in the same village the owners of the mansion employed Nash on the famous Blaise Hamlet of 1811. It is the same all round Bristol-in the approaches to Kingswood, at Henbury village and Brislington, in Clifton-on-the-Hill, in a particularly good group house at Frenchay, at the well-known Redland Court of 1732-5 by Strahan. Most of the work was by local men, but we have seen Vanbrugh at work at Kingsweston, and Clifton Hill House of 1747 was put up by local builders to a design-book plan by Isaac Ware.

Bristol had its own Spa in the Hotwells at the upper end of the Clifton Gorge, a genteel, aloof community very similar to the society then flourishing at Bath. Its thermal and public buildings have nearly all perished, and one is left with charming lodging areas, now sadly gone down in the world, in such places as Dowry Square and Dowry Parade. Albemarle Row and Hope Square. But their architecture owes less to Bath than does the social need which they were built to meet; artistically they belong to the brick and stone Bristol Georgian of the merchants' quarters in Brunswick and the other squares. Bristol's architectural equivalent to Bath is the smart quarter built, in Great George Street, Berkeley Square, and elsewhere on the Brandon Hill slopes, and in the stone-faced terraces of Upper Clifton whose expansion was much blighted by the Napoleonic war. Indeed, the story, despite excellent early 19th-century buildings like the Paragon, is largely one of architec-tural "might have beens." The site of Windsor Terrace was to have been graced by a version of Bath's Royal Crescent, with 20 houses instead of 30, and Tyndalls Park, behind the masterly country house by James Bridges known as the Royal Fort, was to have had a series of terraces and crescents by Wyatt. As the



Arno's Castle (Horace Walpole's "Devil's Cathedral"). A fantastic Gothick blend of black slag blocks and freestone dressings.

scheme was got out in 1791 we have probably missed something well worth seeing.

Clifton terraces in the manner of Bath were built as late as the 1850's; they thus overlap Bristol's admirable collection of more academically Grecian buildings. Some of these were by outsiders; we have seen how Bristol boasts work by Busby, both Smirkes, and C. R. Cockerell. There were also the architects of her own school, producing both villas and more public buildings, mostly in stone or with stone facing and only to a small extent using a surface of stucco. The chief names are W. A. Armstrong, Charles Underwood, R. S. Pope, and Charles Dver, the last with an admirable habit of signing and dating both villas like Litfield and Camp Houses, and an important public work like the Victoria Rooms (1838-40) that reminds one, on a smaller scale, of some aspects of Liverpool's St. George's Hall. The 1830's and early 1840's saw a real flowering in Bristol of the late Greek revival; we have already noticed Under-wood's work at Arno's Vale. There are also the fine Ionic front of Armstrong's Brunswick Chapel and the two really notable buildings achieved in 1838-40 by R. S. Pope, the Royal Western Hotel (now Brunel House) and the Corinthian portico, dominating one side of the upper part of the Centre where there was open water a century ago, of the church built for the Irvingites that soon became what it still remains, the Catholic church of St. Mary on the Quay.

These last architects had inevitably to be bilingual in Grecian and Gothic, and the first half of the last century saw a marked overlap between the last works in the Classic or Georgian tradition and the full tide of the Gothic revival. Pope, Dyer and others worked in Gothic as well as Greek, and by 1840 Bristol had the important inspiration of two churches by Rickman to lead on to a purely Gothic school. There is also a really historic building in Highbury Chapel, built for the Congregationalists in 1842-3. For this simple Perpendicular church of austere nave and aisles in grey stone is none other than the first religious building by Butterfield (the tower and apse are later, by E. W. Godwin). Anglican church was also near Bristol, at Coalpit Heath in 1844-5, and he also did the chapel at Horfield Barracks. All are in the restrained, correct vein of St. Augustine's College, Canterbury; it is a far cry to the High Anglican polychrome of his later days. The early Gothic revival in Bristol, mainly for church, charitable, or educational purposes, continued in the hands of other men. Some were local like some of the Foster family



Neo-Grec. The Cemetery Lodges, Arno's Vale, by Charles Underwood, c. 1837-8.

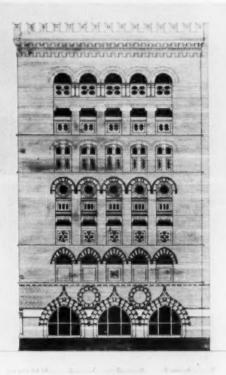


Bristol Italianate. A pair of houses, 105-7 Pembroke Road, Clifton, by Joseph Neale, c. 1861.

or the far from contemptible S. B. Gabriel, others were Londoners whose Bristol commissions were some among many. By far the best of these was John Norton, a pupil of Ferrey who was himself a fellow of Pugin, carrying on the Pugin tradition, minus iron screens, Lord Shrewsbury, and Hardman glass, but none the less with no mean distinction, particularly at St. Matthias', Stapleton, and the really noble Early English steeple of Christ Church, Clifton. But a more important figure in Bristol's Gothic revival, the source of dynamic ideas on taste and dominant figure for a time in the Bristol Society of Architects, was E. W. Godwin. With his strongly Italianate warehouses we come naturally to the last group of Bristol's buildings that must be noticed before the coming of the more modern and contemporary architects.

Bristol's most distinctive contribution to Victorian architecture is in the idiom which Mr. Summerson has dubbed "Bristol Byzantine"; in reality its inspiration seems to come less from Byzantium than from a mixture of Florence, Venice and Siena. Even where it is Gothic, the links are with Italy, and it owes nothing to the Medieval work of England or France. Hence it is a fanciful, exotic fashion, polychrome brick where not stone-faced; it gave Bristol a widely varied group of buildings and at least one masterpiece.

Characteristically enough in an age of great commercial expansion, the buildings in this Italian idiom are largely for industrial or commercial purposes—ware-



Ponton & Gough's Granary on Welsh Back. 1869. Reproduced from a drawing by H. Godwin Arnold, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A.

houses, factories, a large hotel. There are a few private houses and public buildings, but only one church. The forerunner of the style may well be a remarkable building put up as early as 1841-2, the soap factory of Messrs. Christopher Thomas in Broad Plain. The Thomas family were cultured Unitarians who travelled abroad, and the factory has features, its corner turrets and battlements for example, taken direct from the Palazzo Vecchio at Florence and other buildings in Tuscany. But the heyday of "Bristol Byzantine" was not for another twenty years. Then we have it practised by the whole range of the local architectural fraternity; one suspects the influence of Godwin's taste, though his own warehouse-palazzi are restrained in colour beside some of the efforts of the late 1860's. There are the Colston Hall and Grand Hotel by John Foster and John Wood (the interactions of Fosters and Woods are a complicated part of Bristol's architectural story at this time, and the firm was very prolific). Victoria Street that leads from Temple Meads to Bristol Bridge is full of the style, for it was newly laid out when it was all the rage. There are two or three excellent examples in the famous King Street. And at the end of King Street, sited in a Venetian manner on the Welsh Back and near enough to the water for its reflection to be seen therein, is the magnificent polychrome granary put up in 1869 for Messrs. Wait & James. The designers were the most consistent leaders of the Italianate school, Archibald Ponton and William Venn Gough; they used the same divided battlements that one finds in Thomas' soap house, but the basic composition is more their own and stands as the ultimate refinement and sophistication of "Bristol Byzantine"; it is certainly one of the most notable buildings in the city. In the next year the debt to Venice was more explicitly acknowledged by Ponton in his Art Gallery at the top of Park Street. Its heraldic treatment is much as in the Granary, but the style is completely Venetian Gothic, and the building is in fact a reduced version of the Doge's Palace. was gutted in the raids, but has now been restored as a students' refectory and staff common room for the University.

HOW TO ADD A BATHROOM TO AN EXISTING COTTAGE

by GEORGE CHALFONT St. GILES
Architect

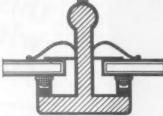
has just telephoned to ask us to her cocktail party this evening (as if I didn't know the invitations have been out for at least a month, the cat)—I was very offhand with her and told her that you had a lot of professional engagements at this time of the year. I said I would telephone, but she left it that we could do as we liked as far as she was concerned. You know, I think we ought to go,"

We arrived later and I couldn't help noticing that the room was rather empty. Rusher made a beeline for myself and Mary, but he made it obvious that he only wanted to talk to her. He is the other architect in our little community and I am sorry to say gets most of the work. He panders to the popular taste by taking a 4in. x 2in. and sawing it down the middle to make into two 4in. x ½in.'s. He then nails them into the brickwork and forms

squares which he fills in with cement, and there you have a "half-timber work" house. The public love it; but now that all the small local builders are copying him I think it will eventually put him in the place he belongs. I was not in the least interested in Rusher's talk to Mary and, having had a cocktail, was ready to explore new pastures.

I spotted a fluffy nice little thing sitting alone and asked her if I could get her a cocktail, and then we sat

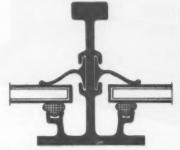
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down together and talked; after the third I gathered up courage to tell her I was an architect. How excited she got! "How lucky, just what my husband and I were looking for," she said, "but we didn't know where to find one. Donald, my husband, was going to ask the local labour exchange to send one up, but now I have found you, isn't it lovely?" We had more cocktails and she found out my name was George and I that she was called Flossie. I had no idea before how easily cocktails get you over the initial stages.

She burbled it all out. She lived in the real country with an elderly husband and three children, in a cottage with only, could you believe it, one bathroom. This was all very awkward, especially when the three children, the nurse, her elderly husband all wanted the bathroom at the same time. Donald was very careless about his dress, or rather undress, and although the nurse didn't seem to mind, she was going to stop that sort of thing. It was especially awkward when all six pairs of hands, metaphorically, of course, wanted to "Pull gently" at the same time!

I told her how I would put my heart and soul into the "project" and would call to-morrow morning. It was "Good-night, Flossie" and "Good-night, George" — such an understanding little woman!

I found we were about the last to think of going. On rejoining Mary, who was still with Rusher, this new job made me feel so very superior.

Next morning, down a long lane away from everything, I found the cottage. I arrived tooting the horn and noticed an elderly man sitting in the garden reading his paper. He lowered the paper to look at me, but up it went again at once, and he took no further notice. I made quite a noise on the front door and at last she was there. But what a different Flossie from the night before!

She hardly seemed to know me and was obviously not expecting any visitors, and she kept glancing at the man sitting in the garden—then she took me over to him and introduced me as the man who had come about the bathroom from the local labour exchange. Oh! perfidious woman, but I said nothing.

Donald MacGregor was his name and he looked like it. I have found that the Scotch receive one with a stony stare and in complete silence, but after several years when you have got to know them, they embarrass you with their friendliness.

Mr. MacGregor asked me so many questions about drains, lavatories

and fees that if I was to enumerate them all there would be no room in this article for the rest of the story. At last he said he would listen to my suggestions.

The cottage was a three-bedroomed one of the picturesque type that we have all got so tired of. There was a sloping roof over a 2ft. 6in. deep loggia that seemed to have possibilities. We went upstairs and crawled about this very small space and bumped our heads against the sloping rafters, and I noticed that none of us looked at our best in this crawling position. Then I had a "brainwave," by forming a very large dormer we could get a floor space of 6ft. x 6ft. I told him we would use a standard windowthey are so easy to calculate, you take so many 1ft. Sins. along and Ift. upwards, and get the size 5ft. x 5ft. Mr. MacGregor was impressed but he wouldn't show it.

"This is going to be very easy, Sir" (I notice he paid attention to me when I said "Sir"). "The whole thing should cost you not much more than £75." I kept it high so as to show him a saving at the finish, then I pointed out that no licence would be required, no Town and Country Planning, no Land Act, and, as it was such a small job, I wouldn't send in anything to the Rural District Council, it was hardly worth while. Then we started planning the position of the fittings. First the bath, but the sloping ceiling came within 2ft. 6in. of the floor and it would be a little awkward getting at the taps and the waste and that nobody would be able to sit at the wrong end, but in any case it isn't worth it because the hot tap burns your shoulder. Besides, I always prefer the other end when it is vacant; but how silly of me, it would be Mr. MacGregor that would be getting his shoulder burnt! "What about a 25in, basin and towel rail?" Then a whispered conversation took place between Flossie and Mr. Mac-Gregor and he said she didn't want it and she said she did,

It took me some time to arrive at what they were so earnestly discussing. Of course it was the w.c. and the bidet, but they didn't know the name of it. You see, they had only spent one week-end in France.

Mr. MacGregor took me aside and told me that his wife had set her heart on one of "those things" that the French women use and that she liked a very low w.c. Naturally when we rejoined Flossie neither of those things were mentioned. I felt a little nervous about getting all

these fittings into this very small space. One cannot do much with 6ft. x 6ft.

Now we came to how to get hot water to the bathroom; the existing boiler was heated from the back of a small sitting-room fire. Here I was on firm ground; what I didn't know about B.T.U.s, well, I could find it all out of a catalogue. All one wanted was a cylinder and an immerser. But just think of it, they had no electric light. Well, never mind, you can have a gas boiler, just turn it on and it does the rest. Three miles to the nearest gas main! 1 next suggested oil, but there was no suitable place to put the 250-gallon reservoir and I was a little vague as to how it was started. plumped for a large boiler with a chute from the first floor down into the top of the boiler. You would just lift a trapdoor in one of the first floor bedrooms and it would keep in day and night and require no attention (or so I thought).

Mr. MacGregor was warming to me just a little. The bidet and w.c. had broken the ice.

Before going he gave me a large whisky; that is one thing that the Scotch know how to handle. We arranged to meet the following week to choose the fittings.

I drove home feeling exhilarated. I must see to the steering-wheel, it seemed very wobbly, and at the back of my mind I felt I had been a little foolish in saying it would only cost £75; after all, you can pay that for a bath.

The specification was a masterpiece. I copied out pages and pages of general clauses from the "Ideal Specification" and when it came to construction and plumbing I put everything down, while the drains were a model of perfection. I was surprised at its length, but I was out to show Mr. MacGregor that I knew my job.

I meet Flossie the following week at one of those showrooms which have countless fitted up bathrooms. She was amazed but rose to the occasion and chose a complete room in purple for £369 12s. 8d. She said it would be all right as she knew how to manage Donald.

The specifications went out to three local builders and came in on a Tuesday. The lowest estimate was for £1,160. The following day I was sacked!

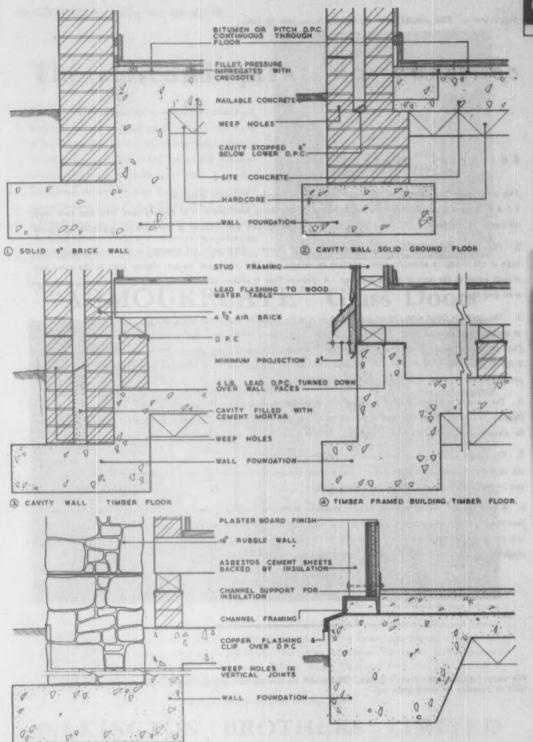
Some months after Mrs. Beaumont told Mary that she had been over seeing the MacGregors and that they had got such a nice little new bathroom.

ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS DETAIL SHEETS Edited by Edward D. Mills, F.R.I.B.A., F.R.S.A.

Reprints of the first fifty detail sheets which appeared in the A. & B.N. from 25.6.1948 to 17.6.1949, will be ready shortly. Now is the time to order from the Publishing Department, Architect & Building News, Dorset House, Stamford Street, S.E.I. Price for the set of fifty with index: 7/6, or 12/6 in folder.

The list of subjects and names of the architects is given below.

Sheets I — 50						Author		N	umber
Aluminium Flagmast, Coventry	***					D. E. E. Gibson			A.I. C.17.
Balcony, Monks Park Flats, Coventry					***	D. E. E. Gibson			A.2. E.6.
Porch, Little Baddow, Essex	***	***				Roff Marsh			A.3. E.5.
Bedroom Fittings, Little Baddow	***			***		Roff Marsh			A.4. E.13.
Lampstandard, Broadgate, Coventry	0 = 0		***	***		D. E. E. Gibson			A.S. C.17.
Bar Counter, Youth Centre, Redhill						Edward D. Mills			A.6. F.13.
Service Bar, Tea Centre						Misha Black			A.7. K.13.
Flower Boxes, The Tea Centre	***					Misha Black			A.8. K.13.
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Porch, B.I.S.F. House, Type B						(A.10.E.S.
Porch, B.I.S.F. House, Type A	***	***	***			Frederick Gibberd			A.11.E.5.
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Fume Cupboard, Laboratory, Scunthorpe,	lines					Frederick Gibberd			A.50.A.15.



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CONSTRUCTION SHEET L.2., C.14.

Editorial Notes

This sheet shows six details for the construction of wall bases in various materials.

- 1. A 9" brick wall is built off a normal foundation. The damp proof course is 6" above ground level and runs under all timber in the floor. The fillets set in screed are impregnated with crossote to eliminate the possibility of dry rot.
- 2. The cavity is closed 6' below the lowest damp proof course. Weep holes are provided in the vertical joints at the base of the cavity in order to allow moisture to escape. A fillet of cement mortar, sloping towards the outer leaf, directs water to the outside of the building. A concrete floor is shown, with a damp proof course continuous through wall and floor.
- 3. The cavity is filled with cement moitar up to a point 6" below the damp proof course. Weep holes are provided at ground level to allow water to escape. An air brick is built in the inner leaf to allow circulation of air round the floor timbers. No air brick is provided for the outer leaf, the weep holes giving sufficient ventilation to the cavity. A damp proof course is shown under the wall plate on the sleeper wall, and is lapped over the edges of the wall to prevent moisture reaching the wall plate.
- 4. The base to a timber framed building with a timber floor is given in Figure 4. A wood water table, with lead flashing, is constructed at the base of the wall to throw water clear of the concrete. Damp proof courses are provided for sleeper walls below all floor timbers and for base walls at least 6° above ground level.
- 5. The rubble wall construction shown has an inner leaf of 4½" brickwork. Weep holes are provided at the base of the cavity and ventilate it sufficiently. Damp proof courses are provided 6" above ground level for the external wall and immediately below all timber for sleeper walls.
- 6. A built up wall unit of asbestos cement sheets with channel framing is detailed. A flashing of copper is provided over the channel framing and is taken over and round the damp proof course which is provided to prevent water rising into the structure from the soil. Insulation to the wall is fixed to a steel channel and the asbestos cement sheets, insulation, and plaster board finish, are bolted together.

We welcome comments from readers. These will be summarised and published. Letters should reach us as early as possible to avoid time lag.

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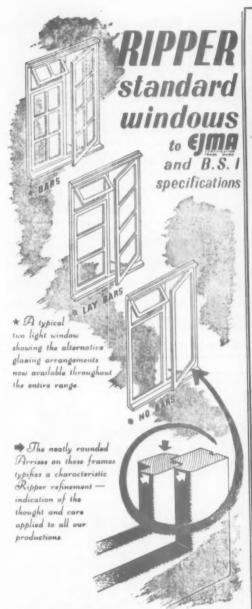
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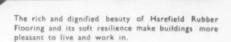
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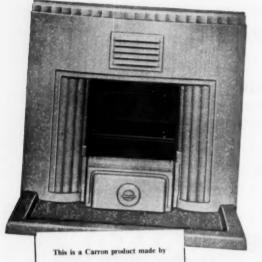
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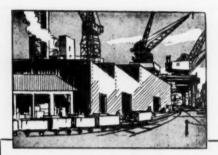


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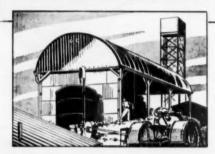






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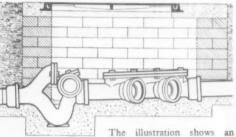
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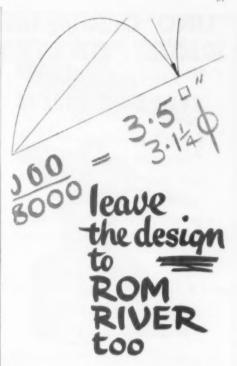


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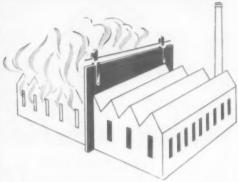
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Further particulars and application forms from the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Scientific Branch, 3th Floor, Trandad House, Old Burtington Street, London, W.I. quoting No. 1105; comported applications must be returned by 22nd June, 1950

DUNDEE COLLEGE OF ART SCHOOL OF DUNDEE COLLEGE OF ART SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE. The Governors of the Dunder Institute of Art and Technology invite applications for the position of LECTURER AND STUDIO INSTRUCTOR.

Afplicants should be members of the R.I.B.A. and should preferably be holders of a degree of dpioma of a recognised School of Architecture.

Salary Scales—Men. (450 by 220 to 1700; Women, 4500 by 215 to 1575; with placing according to qualifications and experience.

Applications should be lodged as soon as possible.

palifications and experience.

Applications should be lodged as soon as posible and should be on the great-bed form, copies which, with full particulars, may be obtained

J. CAMERON FREER, Clerk and Treasurer. 1 Street, Dundee 21203

BOROLGH OF BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL

BOROUGH SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT on the remanent staff at a consolidated salary according to A.P.T. Division. Grade VI of the National Scheme (£595 to £660 per annum, plus appropriate Condon "weighting"), commencing list year, the appointment being determinable by one month's notice on either side.

Applicants should be qualified as Associate Members of the Royal Institute of Bratish Architects

for hold a similar qualification), but consideration will also be given to applicants intending shortly to take the Associate Examination.

Applicants should have had extensive know edge

in general architectural work, house planning and design, including preparation of working drawings specifications

The Council have under consideration the pobility of providing housing accommodation for the

bility of providing housing accommodation for the successful applicant.

Applications for the above-mentioned appoint-ment must be made on the prescribed form (which contains all particulars and conditions of appoint-ment), obstantable from the undersigned, to whom applications should be sent not later than the 5th lane. 1950.

W. F. J. CHURCH, Town Clerk Town Hall, Chiswick, W.4.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOURNEMOUTH.

BOROUGH ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointment—
ASSISTANT ARCHITECT—Unestablished Post—
Starty Grade A.P.T. VI. 698-6660 per annumrequired for reconstruction works on beach buildings. Applicants must be members of the R.I.B.A.
The successful candidate will be appointed at his
present malary if such salary is within the incremental scale of the advertised post.
The above appointment will be terminable by one
month's notice, in writing, on other side and subject to the provisions of the Local Government
Superannuation Act. 1917, also to the conditions
of service in accordance with the National Scheme.
The successful candidate will be required to pass
a medical examination.

No assistance can be offered regarding housing

No assistance can be offered regarding housing

No assistance can be offered regarding housing accommodation.

Applications, on forms to be obtained from the Borough Architect. Town Hall. Bournemouth, accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, to be returned to the undersigned in envelopes endormed. Staff Architecturni." not later than 9 a.m.

Saturday, 10th June, 1950
A. LINDSAY CLEGG, Town Cerk.

WELSH REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the following permanent posts on the Board's Headquarters Staff.

Architect's Division:
(a) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, Salary A.P.T.
Grade VIII (605-£760).

Grade VIII (b) ASSISTANT

Grade VIII (685-2760).

(b) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. Salary A.P.T. Grade V (£520-£570).

Applicants for both posts must be registered architects, must have passed the Final examination of the R.I.B.A., and have had wide experience in planning and construction, and in the preparation of working drawings for important hosnital buildings. The appointments are superannu-

Applications, stating age, qualifications and ex-perience, with the names of two referees, should be addressed to the Scoretary, Temple of Peace and Health, Cathays Park, Cardiff, to reach him not later than June 20, 1950. [4542]

MIDLOTHIAN COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the post of ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, Salary A P T VII—6635-2710. Candidates should be Associates of the R I, BA. And powers a sound knowledge of Housing and School Building.

Applications, together with copies of two recent testimonials, are to be Jodged with the subscriber not later than 17th June, 1950. JAMES McBOYLE, County Clerk.

County Buildi George IV Bridge Edinburgh 1 14545

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the following A appointments to the permanent staff in the Architectural Section of the Public Works Depart-

ON SENSOR OCCANTITY SURVEYOR Goode A.P.T. VIII (1585/1760). (b) QUANTITY SURVEYOR. Grade A.P.T. VI

(CRAST FRASO)

For the post of (a) applicants must be Associate Members of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (Quantity Section) and have had considerable

veyors (Quantity Section) and have had considerable experience in a Quantity Surveyor's Office and be competent to "take-off" and prepare Bills of Quantities for all classes of buildings.

For post (b) applicants must have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (Quantity Section) and should have had experience in a Quantity Surveyor's Office seed by surveyors to Abstract and Bill (for all classes). and be competent to Abstract and Bill for all classes

Applicants need not have had previous Local Government experience.

Government experience.

The mlary scales are in accordance with those laid down under the National Scales of Salaries and the commencing salary will be fixed at an incremental point within the grade according to the qualifications and experience of the candidates appointed

heattons and experience of the candidates appointed. The appointments may be terminated by one month's notice on either side. The successful applicants will be required to undergo a medical examination by the Corporation Doctor and the appointments will be subject to the

undergo a medical examination by the Corporation Doctor and the appointments will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannia-tion Act, 1917. Forms of application may be obtained from the undersimed stating which post is applied for, and are to be returned accompanied by cooles of three recent testimonials not later than 24th June, 1950 Canvassing, either directly or indirectly.

HERBERT J. MANZONI City Engineer and Surveyo 14546

URBAN DISTRICT OF EAST BARNET.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the following (3) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. A.P.T. Grade V. §520-6570 plus the appropriate London

(b) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT A.P.T. Grade III. £450-£495 plus the appropriate London Weighting.

Consideration will be given to the provision of housing accommodation if required. Applicants should be qualified by examination.

Applicants should be quantized by examination, and preference will be given to those having previous experience with Local Authorities, Each appointment will be subject to one month's notice on either side, and to the provision of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1997, Successful candidates will be required to mass a medi-

cal examination.

Forms of application should be obtained from undersigned and returned by not later than nday, 12th June, 1950 M. BARNES O.B.E. M.I.Mun.F., F.R.S.I. Engineer and Surveyor.

Town Hall Station Road

New Barnet, Hertfordshire, 14567

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT PLANNING STAFF.

A PPLICATIONS are invited for positions of PLANNING OFFICER. Grade 1 (1986-1996). Grade II (1986-1996). Grade III (1990-1996). The position of the plant of the position of the plant of the TECHNICAL ASSISTANT up to £500, The positions are superannuable. Candidates for Grade I positions should have architectural and town planning qualifications and will be engaged on Reconstruction Areas and Detailed Planning. Candidates struction Areas and Detailed Plannine. Candidates for Grade II and III positions should have architectural or surveying qualifications with fown planning qualifications in addition, and will be entared on Development Plan, Development Applications and Detailed Plannine. Technical Assistants are required for work on Development Applications and Detailed Planning.

Detailed Planning.
Particulars and application forms from The
Architect (AR/P/P). The County Hall. Westminster
Bridge, S.E.I., enclosing stamped addressed foolscap envelope. Canvasing disqualitips, (365) [0098

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT

A PPLICATIONS are invited for the permanent appointment of ASSISTANT ARCHITECT at a salary in accordance with National Grade VI (5295-7060 per annum). Candidates must be registered architects and mast hold a reconstand architectural qualification; they must have had a most general architectural experience and have a decental architectural experience and have a sound knowledge of design, construction and speci-fications. The appointment will be subject to the Local Government Officers' Superannuation Acts, to a satisfactory medical certificate, and to one menth's notice on either side. National Scheme of Conditions of Service will apply. Applications must state clearly age, qualifications.

Applications must state clearly age, qualifications, full details of training, experience and previous ap-nointments, with dates, salaries and designations; the names and addessures of three persons to whom reference may be made must be stated. Applica-tions must be delivered to Mr. C. H. Thurston, L.R.I.B.A. F.R.I.C.S. County Architect. 25 Thorpe Road, Norwich, by not later than Wednes-day, 7th June, 1950.

H. OSWALD BROWN, Cerk of the Council.

ounty Offices. Thorpe Road, Norwich

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

QUANTITY SURVEYOR required by the Gov-QUANTITY SURVEYOR required by the Government of Kenya for the Public Works Department for one tour of four years. Commencing salary according to age and experience in scale 2655 rising to £1,40 a year. Outil allowance £10. Gratuity on satisfactory completion of services. Free passages and liberal leave on full salary. Candidates, not over 45 years of are, must be Chattered Quantity Surveyons with considerable experience.—Apply at once by letter, stating age, whether married or single, and full particulars of qualifications and experience, and mentioning this paner, to the Crown Agents for particulars of qualifications and experience, and mentioning this paper, to the Crown Agents for the Colonies 4 Millbank, London, S.W.I. quoting M.W./2532/3/A on hoth letter and envelope. The Crown Agents cannot undertake to acknowledge all applications and will communicate only with applicants selected for further consideration.

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(c) ENGINEERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

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House, 35/41 Lower Marsh, London, S.E.1 (adjacent to Waterloo Station). All reglica will be treated as confidential

PUBLIC SERVICE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

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Salary ranges: Grade 11—527-559; Grade 11— E449-5501; Grade 111—1390-1436; Grade 1V—

In addition to the above rates a cost of living allowance-at present fild a year-is payable

Applications in writing in duplicate, giving age and details of experience and qualifications, should be lodged at the Office of the Azent-General for Victoria, Victoria House, Melhourne Piace, Strand. London, W.C.2, not later than 31st May, 1950.

Applicants will be selected for subsequent inter-view when details of appointment, etc. will be made available. [451]

ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS VACANT

A RCHITECT'S Ammant required immediately with experience of industrial buildings and capable of preparing working drawings and details. Applicants are requested to state age, experience and salary required to The Austin Motor Co. Ltd. P.O. Box 41, Birmingham, [454]

ARCHITECTURAL Assistant required by Gol-lina, Melvin & Partnera, F/A.R.L.B.A. Cap-able working drawings. Salary £550/£550. Office experience essential. Five-day week. — Telephone Musecism 6881 for appointment. [4532]

PERMANENT positions available for competent Assistants in established London office. Salary-Juniors 2301/2559, Seniors 2650/2630 per annum. Reply with full details of experience to Box 4368. The Architect and Building News. [4533

MAX Lock requires qualified Architect as Assistant in detailed design and layous of large housing sicheme near Potsmouth. Experience of housing work ossential, planning qualifications preferred. Salary £500 p.a. Peasant accommodation provided. — Apply to Max Lock, "Alverbank," Stanley Park, Osoport, Hann.

SITUATIONS VACANT

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A RCHITECT Surveyor required at Head Office for current maintenance and improvement of approx. 69 shops and ecatuaratus transjority in London area). Applicant should have several years' practical office and side experience, be capable of carrying out record surveys of all firm's properties and of drawing up small alteration schemes, included ing specifications, putting these out to tender and seeing them through to completion flarger schemes are being handled by independent outside firm of Architects, who are prepared to give successful applicant occasional guidance).—Apply in writing, giv-ing full particulars of training, qualifications and previous experience, to The Secretary, Fuller's Ltd., 45 Great Church Lane, Hammersmith, W.6. 14538

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invited for the erection of 32 THIRTY-TWO HOUSES on a site at Court St. Jacquae (Mon Pinisir). St. Peter Port. Guernsey. Plans. Specifications and Forms of Tender may be obtained at the office of the undersigned upon payment of One Pound (£1), which will be refunded

payment of One Pound ££11, which will be refunded on the receipt of a bona-fide tender and the return of all plans and documents.

Tenders, in sealed envelopes, addressed to the President, States Housing Authority, Haddley House, Lefebver Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, and endorsed "Tender for Houses, Mon Plaint" must be delivered at the office of the Authority not later than moon on Monday, the 26th June.

G. HEGGS. States Engineer States Office, Guermey, 19th May, 1950.

THE Agent General for Western Australia deaires to advise prospective tenderers that the closing date in Perth. Western Australia, for the receip of tenders for the supply and crection of 750 Prefabricated or Precut Houses for the State Housing Commission of Western Australia has now been extended to the 13th July, 1950.

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Dotset House, Stanford Surest, S.R.I.

Two revolutionary inventions affecting opening lights in ALUMINEX patent glazing

It has been said that one test of a good invention is whether the laymen will say — after it has been invented — that it is obvious. Here is a brief account of two such deceptively simple inventions that put Aluminex Patent Glazing opening lights in a class on their own for operational efficiency.

An opening light in Aluminex Patent Glazing is hung on a single hing; a continuous hook hinge that extends the whole length of the window. The hinge is shown in the accompanying sketch. It will be seen from its simple shape that it cannot bind as ordinary knuckle hinges often do, nor does it suffer from other limitations of the ordinary hinge. The Aluminex hook hinge, being continuous, gives uniform support to the frame along its entire length. This means that the framework of the lights lung on these hinges may be constructed throughout of much lighter than normal metal sections.



This drawing shows the design of the continuous hings used on the Alumines apaning lights. The head weothering makes flashings universestory.

It will immediately be seen how materially the invention of this hinge affected the progress of patent glazing. The hinge formed a natural addition to the other Aluminex components because these elements—the glazing bar, the continuous glazing cover strip, the zed weathering detail and the shoe—were all of similarly simple and functional design. (They were indeed the results of a basic re-thinking of patent glazing.)

Three advantages of the continuous hinge

The exact form in which the continuous brings was incorporated in the Alamates system (again, as the diagram shows) brought three additional advantages. First, the brings solved the problem of mounting long and continuous lights without bringers or bringe pins. Second, in the borm adopted it provided an integral and draughtproof head weathering which made flashings unnecessary. Third, the bringe also provided, by reason of its open and simple form, a means of accommodating without strain or loss of alignment, the small structural variations which occur in practice, but which always tend to impair the free action of ordinary bringes.

part of the Aluminex opening light hung on the continuous book hinge.

The general character of the Aluminex patent glazing system of which these two inventions now form part, may be summarised as follows:

It consists of extruded aluminium alloy glazing bars of great strength and resistance to corrosion. Glass panes are ellipsed to these bars by means of continuous rolled glazing cover strips, also made of aluminium alloy. The other specially designed litments are the zed weathering detail and the glass shoe.

Great areas may be glazed by this method. The north windows of the Brabazon hangur at Filton measure 1,052 ft. by 50 ft. Alumines may be double-glazed to provide a cladding which



The continuous hinge allowed Aluminex engineers to build opening lights of 200 ft. length as a matter of course, and even greater lengths where circumstances denanded it, or where the opening gear could be power-operated.

New operating gear

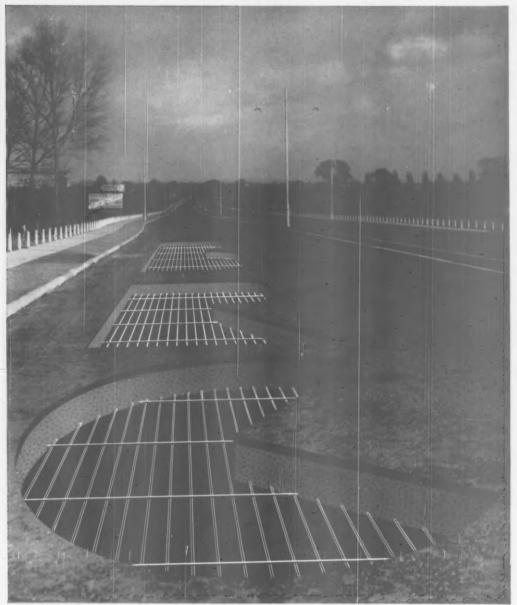
At this point we must take into account operating gear. And it is precisely in this field that Aluminex was again fortunate in adding to itself a product of new thinking similar to itself in intelligent simplicity This was the Teleflex opening gear. first came into its own in the late war. At one time it was performing such diverse tasks as moving the tail fins of R.A.F. aireraft and swinging the control turrets of naval guns. Today its essential characteristics are the same as those which won acceptance for it during the war, although since then, it has been refined and improved in most particulars. Teleflex; is a threaded cable which operates through small, well-designed gear boxes and is capable of transmitting movement over creat distances by almost any route. It can be mounted on lighter metal sections than is the case with tension rod gearing and its mechanical efficiency is such that opening lights 200 ft. in length may be operated with very little effort. In addition, the costs of manufacture and erection are lower than with tension rod gearing. As a whole, therefore, the Teleflex opening light operating gear is a natural counterhas high insulating properties. The appearance of the glazing is neat and light, according well with contemporary styles of industrial architecture.



The Architect who turns to Aluminex Patent Glazing has at his service a method of architectural cladding capable of versatile applications. It is an accepted system feet remains susceptible to imaginative development. The Company extends its fullest co-operation to all Architects who wish to discuss new applications of Aluminex.

For further information please communicate with the Aluminex Division of Williams & Williams Limited, Reliance Works. Chester. Telephone: Chester 3600 (7 lines). Telegrams: Reliance, Chester. And at Victoria House. Southampton Rose, London, W.C.1. Telephone: HOLborn 9861.





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